

THE TIMES

1785-1985

Tomorrow

Rounds in the sun
Your guide to the best golfing holidays in the world

Holland's hero
Bernard Levin on how he doubled up the Dutch

What's yours
A sip-by-sip comparison of French and California wines

In the ring
Colin Jones and his chances of winning a world boxing title

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was shared by three winners yesterday. Mr J. Stuart of London, Miss S. Jones, of Rington, Avon and Miss Jackie Wood of London each receive £666.66. Portfolio list, page 18; how to play, information service, back page.

Government cuts grants by £100m

A four-month moratorium on the payment of regional development grants, to save more than £100 million in the coming financial year, was announced yesterday by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Mr John Smith, Opposition front bench spokesman, said the move would leave expanding companies "in the lurch".

Shares sale

The Royal College of Nursing has agreed to sell shares in tobacco companies. The move comes after a British Medical Association report showing many health organizations have shares in companies with tobacco interests.

Gallows plea

Amnesty International called on President Nimeiry of Sudan to spare the lives of five opposition leaders, including a man of 76 due to hang today.

Space senator

Senator Jake Garn of Utah will be a crew member on next month's space shuttle flight.

Driver's tale

Father Popiezusko's driver gave a graphic account of his escape from Polish secret police on the night of the priest's kidnap.

BaE 'fraud'

Mr David Steel has accused the Government of issuing a "fraudulent" prospectus for the sale of British Aerospace shares in 1981.

Stonehenge plan

Ideas to restore and improve the setting of Stonehenge to protect it from tourists have come from the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

Cyprus hopes

The Cyprus summit opened at the UN in New York with an outward show of goodwill but profound differences beneath the surface.

Rajiv clean-up

Party defecting by MPs and other corrupt political practices will become a thing of the past.

England held up

England's hopes of an innings victory in the fourth Test match against India were reduced by a third-wicket partnership of 190 between Amarnath and Azharuddin.

John Woodcock, page 22

Leader page, 11

Letters: On Sterling, from Mr Roy Jenkins, MP; "blood-doping", from Dr N. C. Craig Sharp.

Leading articles: Southern Lebanon; rate capping. Features, pages 8-10

Time to legislate against surveillance; Le Monde: vive la difference; Trouble to come for British Rail; Nancy Reagan's leading part; Mitterrand's opera house.

Obituary, page 12

Professor W. I. Card, Vassilie Trunoff.

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Kinnock and left in storm on pit debate demand

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock clashed head on with left-wing MPs over the miners' strike in the Commons last night after he had openly attacked them for demanding a parliamentary debate on the dispute.

After the House had been suspended for 20 minutes because more than a dozen MPs had refused to sit down - part of their demonstration was in support of the demand for a debate - Mr Kinnock said dismissively: "I don't know who they are trying to help".

That comment was widely taken as an admission that any debate would be used by the Government to expose the vulnerability of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Later, Mr Kinnock rounded on the left wing at a parliamentary party meeting, in terms which made plain that he saw the miners' strike as a lost cause but a cause with great power to harm the Labour Party.

"Talk about attacking the Government! Mr God, Maggie Thatcher could do with an attack like that every day of the week", he said. The demonstration had been utter self-indulgence.

The left-wing MPs are members of the Campaign Group, which met on Wednesday to plan yesterday's attempted disruption and said last night that they will continue the same tactics next week.

But Mr Kinnock advised the MPs, many of them representing the militant coalfields, to talk to their constituents, to look in today's newspapers, to search their consciences. Did they really believe that their activities would "shove forward one half of one millimetre the possibility of a miners' victory or the prospect of Labour getting to power?"

In the Commons, the protest of the left was directed against the Government's failure to stage a debate. But in reality the attack was aimed at the leadership of the Labour Party.

Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour

MP for Bolsover and one of the most forthright supporters of the strike, told the parliamentary party meeting at during the miners' disputes of 1972 and 1974 there had been regular Commons debates and discussions. "On and on it went", he said, "from the front bench and from the back benches."

Another left-winger, Mr Martin Flannery, MP for Sheffield Hillsborough, said that the leadership had to face the challenge of the strike. It had taken Mr Kinnock 10 months to go on to a picket line. "It is not good enough", he said.

He added: "The real issue is that if they are defeated, we are all defeated. We have to fight for them if they will condemn us."

He said that as a first step in the concerted campaign in support of the miners there was a need for a common debate. "Some of us are fighting hard for a debate", he said. "Some of us are not fighting at all."

Mr Tony Benn, MP for Stoke Newington last night that the Prime Minister was steadfastly refusing a debate to stop the "evil nature" of her policy towards the pits and the miners being exposed.

"Labour MPs will go on and on raising these issues until we are given the chance of taking these questions up in the Chamber of the House of Commons."

"Meanwhile, everyone who cares about the future of this country should be stepping up their action as the laymen did today."

That final comment will undoubtedly be taken as an attack on the Labour leadership.

The fear of those caught in the middle of the party is that the party's reputation will only deteriorate throughout and beyond the strike.

Other pit news, page 2

Parliament, page 4

Colliery officials may quit NUM

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Moderates in the 16,500-member Colliery Officials and Staff Area of the National Union of Mineworkers are proposing a breakaway group to join the anti-strike "dissidents" in Nottinghamshire and South Derbyshire.

That latest evidence of a break-up in the miners' union came as the union's three national officials decided to make an on-the-spot appeal to branch officials of the 3,200 pitsmen in South Derbyshire before they vote on a critical rule change next week.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the union president, his vice-president, Mr Michael McGahey, and the general secretary, Mr Peter Heathfield, will ask miners in the coalfield, who have defied the strike call almost to a man, to stay an integral part of the union. The men are being recommended in a secret ballot to drop rule 3 which makes the area subject to the authority of the pro-strike national executive.

But while the three officials attempt to put down the revolt in South Derbyshire, it is springing up elsewhere. A big Midlands branch of COSA has initiated a motion for the area's annual conference in May calling for steps to separate it from the national union.

COSA, which represents clerks and underground chargehands, is traditionally a bastion of the right, and its general secretary, Mr Trevor Bell, has been the most consistent critic of the executive's conduct of the dispute.

But he insisted last night: "We are part of the NUM and any decision to do otherwise will have to be done in a regular and constitutional manner. But our best interests are served with a united national union."

Apart from the policy motion to the colliery officials' conference, Mr Bell said he was under pressure from members writing in to say they no longer felt their best interests were served by remaining part of the national union.

Should colliery officials secede in the way that Nottinghamshire is already doing, and in which it may be followed by nearly 6,000 men from South Derbyshire and Leicestershire.

Continued on back page, col 6



Mr Scargill leaving a miners' rally at Peterlee yesterday as secession moves mounted within his union

Three shot dead in Army payroll ambush

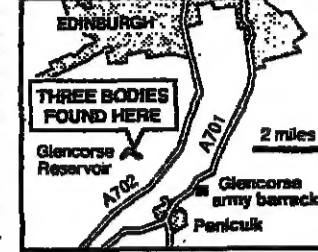
From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

Two unarmed soldiers and a retired Army officer were shot dead yesterday in a £17,000 payroll robbery south of Edinburgh. They had been delivering the money from a bank in Penicuik, Lothian, to the Scottish Infantry training depot at Glenrose barracks.

When their Land-Rover failed to return after picking up the money the alarm was raised and an Army and police search began.

The abandoned vehicle was found on an isolated track leading to Glenrose reservoir and the three bodies were found some distance away, at the end of a trail of blood in the snow, near a disused cottage about four miles from Penicuik.

The police identified the three men last night as a retired major, Mr David Forbes Cunningham, aged 56, from the Elgin area, who was on the civilian staff at Glenrose barracks; Staff Sergeant Terence Stephen Hosker, aged 39, a bachelor, of the Royal Army Pay Corps, from Bradford, West Yorkshire; and Private John Mickie Thomson, aged 25, of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers Regiment, who was married with a child and came from the Borders area.



Dunlop option may give Edwardes £3.5m

Sir Michael Edwardes, chairman of Dunlop Holdings, earned a hypothetical profit of £3.5 million yesterday after the shares of the ailing tyres and industrial products group had their Stock Exchange listing restored (see Griffiths writes).

The shares were suspended at 25p in December while the final details of a financial rescue package for the company were hammered out. As part of this proposed package, unveiled on Tuesday, Dunlop's bankers have granted Sir Michael the option to purchase nearly 21 million shares at a price of 14p. When dealings in the Dunlop shares closed yesterday the price stood at 31 1/2p.

The rescue package and Sir Michael's share option scheme must still be approved by the company's shareholders.

Yesterday's sharp increase in the share price took the City by surprise. When the proposed rescue packages was first revealed most analysts expected that the best that could be expected was a price of 20p.

Professor Robert Fritchard, a spokesman for the Dunlop Shareholders Association, said it was an "incredible package for the small shareholder".

Kenneth Fleet, page 17

Kohl tribute to British defence role

From Michael Binjon, Bonn

As Mrs Margaret Thatcher arrives here today for a day of talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the West German leader has paid tribute to Britain's defence partnership with his country, and spoken of his hopes for a new phase of East-West cooperation in the wake of the Geneva arms control talks.

In an interview with *The Times*, Herr Kohl said the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union would give new impetus to a range of arms control and disarmament talks now going on. But he added that Europe's interests had to be defended and asserted.

The Chancellor spoke of the close security cooperation between Britain and West Germany and paid tribute to the British Army of the Rhine and the British forces in Berlin. He called Britain "one of our most important and reliable Alliance partners in ensuring freedom and peace".

The Chancellor called for a thorough reform of the European Community's institutions and suggested a new Treaty of Rome was needed.

Questioned about his attitude to the fortieth anniversary of VE Day on May 8, Herr Kohl said it was not a day to celebrate but to commemorate the liberation from National Socialism.

It should be also an occasion when Germany and her allies, including Britain, marked the birth of a new democratic state.

● LONDON: Mrs Thatcher will fly to the United States for talks with President Reagan on February 20. Downing Street announced last night.

Kohl interview, page 7

Tubes may shelter homeless

By Staff Reporters

London's homeless struggling to survive at night in sub-zero temperatures may be able to find refuge in the capital's underground stations. Nearly 150 Labour MPs have signed a petition pressing the Government to take emergency measures to help Britain's down-and-outs - including the use of the Underground in London as a refuge.

And last night London Regional Transport said it would seriously consider opening stations at night to the homeless if a formal request to do so came from the Government.

Already LRT chiefs are making inquiries into how this scheme could be temporarily implemented and they are seeking the advice of transport bodies in Paris, where a similar operation, opening the Metro to the homeless, was carried out over Christmas.

The main problem facing LRT would be how to make Underground stations safe for down-and-outs at night - the electric currents on the lines shut down for only three hours every night, between 1 and 4 a.m.

Despite the problems, an LRT spokesman said last night that it wished to respond as "humanely and sympathetically" to the present crisis as possible.

There are an estimated 10,000 homeless in London, with 500 sleeping rough in the Embankment and Waterloo areas of London alone, and all

Continued on back page, col 5

Americans reject joint action to bring down dollar rates

By David Smith and Bailey Morris

The finance ministers of Britain, Germany, France and Japan mounted a sharp attack in Washington yesterday on the United States over its \$200 billion budget deficit.

The attack, led by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, came at the close of a session Group of Five meeting.

On the key question of concerted intervention in the foreign exchange markets to bring down the dollar, however, the Americans made clear from the outset that this was not on the agenda. "We have not changed our policy on this," a United States Treasury official said.

The one-day meeting appeared to have achieved very little apart from acquainting Mr James Baker, the new US Treasury Secretary, with the strength of feeling of America's

international partners on the budget deficit.

The foreign exchange markets, which were in a two-day lull before the meeting because of fears of action to bring down the dollar, could start another upward run for the American currency.

New York foreign exchange dealers said yesterday that the dollar could quickly climb to DM13.25 and push down the pound to \$1.10.

In quiet trading yesterday, the pound edged down 10 points to \$1.1185, after an earlier rise to \$1.1280. The pound lost over a penny against the mark and the sterling index was down 0.1 at 71.

The attack on the American deficit comes as Republican leaders in the US Senate continue to strive to come up

with a plan to halve over three years America's \$200 billion annual deficit.

Britain's own budget deficit, the public sector borrowing requirement, is also running ahead of plans, it was revealed yesterday. The PSBR in December was £573 million, despite the receipt of £1.5 billion from sales of British Telecom shares and £500 million from change of VAT rules requiring more speedy payment by importers.

Public spending is running ahead of target. Supply services expenditure in April-December, the first nine months of the financial year, was up by 7.1 per cent on the corresponding period of 1983/84. The Treasury target is 5.75 per cent.

Kenneth Fleet, page 17

Now Weinberger wants radar back

Washington. - Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, believes that any "Star Wars" weapons deployed in space would need to be backed up by a conventional radar-based, defence system against nuclear bombers - a system drastically reduced by America 10 years ago because it was regarded as obsolete in an age of nuclear missiles (Christopher Thomas writes).

In an interview published in *The New York Times* yesterday, he said that the continental defence system should be restored to ensure that protection against nuclear attack was thoroughly reliable. President Reagan has in the past few years sought more money from Congress to replace ageing radar

installations and other facilities, but Congress has never fully met his requests.

● MOSCOW. *Pravda* suggested today that the United States' insistence on continuing its "Star Wars" space defence programme would threaten the forthcoming US-Soviet arms limitation talks.

Belgian mission and Hart in Moscow, page 6

Phone boxes to profit from facelift

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

British Telecom has unveiled a £100 million modernization package to make the public telephone network the best in the world in 10 years. New telephone kiosks and credit card telephones will be introduced at airports, railway stations and other heavily-used locations.

The plan is the most significant rethink since the public network came into being about 75 years ago. The 76,500 payphones will all be electronic and push button in two years and the network, which loses the corporation £50 million a year could be in profit by the end of the 10-year modernization programme.

The number of phonecard kiosks are to be increased from 1,000 to 8,000 by the end of this year.

Within the next few months subscribers in Bristol will be able to make calls from public

kiosk by punching in special account numbers. The customer is billed at home in the usual fashion.

The credit card service, CreditCall, will allow calls to be made using Visa, Amex or Access cards. Users insert the card into the equipment, which is connected via British Telecom lines to the card company's computer to verify the card. Telephone calls are made by direct dialling and users are billed by the credit card company.

Mr Iain Vallance, British Telecom's managing director, local communications service said: "The new British Telecom will take a radical approach to the problems inherent in today's outdated payphone service. We aim to encourage greater use of payphones by making them more convenient and attractive to use and by

extending the facilities they offer.

This investment programme will convert public payphones in the United Kingdom into a



modern, reliable, clean and profitable service.

Main points of the package: £35 million to be spent over next 10 years replacing 76,500 payphones with new US look. Red kiosks will be kept where there are special local reasons. £15 million will be spent on modernizing equipment: all kiosks will become push button and electronic.

New credit card service to be launched. Pilot scheme will start with 32 units at Heathrow airport made by the British company Plessey and another 10 installed at Waterloo station, manufactured by AGI and Urmet-Sud.

New account number service where customers can have calls billed to a private telephone account number is to begin in Bristol in the next few months. The telephone card network to be extended from 1,000 to 8,000 kiosks by the end of the year.

US, Russia to talk on Middle East

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed in principle to hold talks at expert level on the Middle East, a White House spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman explained that the talks were a result of President Reagan's proposal to the General Assembly last September for "periodic consultations at policy level about regional problems" with the Soviet Union.

Mr Reagan said the objectives of a political dialogue with the Russians were to help avoid miscalculation, reduce the potential risk of US-Soviet confrontations and help the people in areas of conflict to find peaceful solutions.

No date or agenda for the talks has yet been agreed. American officials have emphasized that the US has no plans to bring the Soviet Union into the Middle East peace negotiating process.

"The only realistic path to peace is direct negotiations among the parties directly concerned, based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," a spokesman said.

The proposal for US-Soviet talks is likely to be discussed with President Mubarak of Egypt, when he meets President Reagan at the White House on March 12.

● GENEVA: "We're going to watch it carefully, we don't know what it means," Mr David Kimche, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Office, said in commenting on the decision of the US and the Russians to discuss the Middle East (Alan McGregor writes).

Unfurl waits, page 6

Leading article, page 11

SALE LAST FEW DAYS!

CAMERE - Fine Bedstead in Money or Walnut Finish eg. 5'0" was £470 now £376

CUDDLER Sofa Bed - Comfortable and Practical. Converts to Double Bed. Beige Cotton Twill Fabric. was £425 now £299

PETER NEED - Pure Egyptian Cotton Sheets & Duvet Covers. **CHRISTIAN DIOR** - Duvet Covers, Sheets, Pillowcases, Towels & Designer Bathrobes. **PURE SALE** - Quilts, Comforters, Cushions. **HALF PRICE QUILTS**

SLEEPERZEE SEVATOR - Divan Set with pocket spring interior. 3'6" x 6'3" was £400 now £260. 4'6" x 6'3" was £550 now £355. 7'0" x 7'0" was £1134 now £735. Large range of Mattress Sets from Nylon, Sleeperszee and Vispring. Prices from £135. All models are available as Zipped and Linked units.

SPECIAL SALE OFFER - REIDON CAM Mattress and Spring Edge Divan Set. 8'0" x 7'0" was £2700 now £999.

DEBAY - Traditional Brass Bedstead eg. 5'0" was £645 now £548.

ITL 130 Tree Lamp - Six overhanging branches supported by marble base. was £275 now £220. Brighten up the Bedroom! Table and Standard Lamps - many styles and designs. Phone now for your free SALE CATALOGUE.

LOVER'S KNOT - All Brass Bedstead eg. 5'0" was £845 now £699. **VICTORIA** - Screen Mirror was £480 now £368.

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60/62 West Street, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax, Tel: 0422 839759
65 Whitby Road, Whitby Bay, Tyne and Wear, Tel: (091) 252 4611
57/59 Poole Road, Westbourne, Bournemouth, Tel: 0202 763822
24/26 Castle Street, Edinburgh, (031) 225 2575

Steel in complaint on BAE hare sale

By Anthony Bevis
Political Correspondent

The Government was yesterday reported to the chairman of the Stock Exchange Council by David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, for issuing a "raucous" prospectus for the sale of British Aerospace shares in 1981.

On Monday, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, announced that the Government would sell its 48.43 per cent shareholding in the company later this year. In a letter to the minister yesterday, Mr Steel expressed his "deep misgivings" about the prospectus, which he said had been "written off as a lost cause".

The 1981 BAE prospectus has said: "Following the offer for all HMG does not intend to sell any more of its shareholding in the company for the foreseeable future. HMG has also made it clear that, in any event, it intends to retain a shareholding conferring more than 25 per cent of the voting rights ordinarily exercisable in general meetings."

Mr Steel said: "In plain English, therefore, the prospectus in 1981 was fraudulent."

Mr Tebbit told MPs on Monday that there would be no need for the Government to hold 25 per cent of the shares because a special blocking share would be issued to give it a veto on foreign share ownership.

Mr Steel asked whether such a device would be tolerated in other situations, and he said he had been told that significant parts of British Telecom equity had switched to foreign investors.

Gas safety may be tightened

By Richard Dowden

New gas safety standards may be needed after the explosion in Putney, south-east London, last week which killed eight people, the head of the team investigating the incident said yesterday.

Mr Frank Swain, south London area director of the Health and Safety Executive, said his team was examining all gas accidents since 1977 "to see if a more stringent interpretation of the King committee recommendations is needed."

The King committee reported in 1977 on gas safety.

Mr John Cullen, chairman of the Health and Safety Executive, said that a leak had been found in 50-year-old piping at the back of Newham House, the block blown apart by the explosion.

● Mrs Elizabeth Garratty aged 72, of Clay Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey, was taken to East Grinstead Hospital suffering from severe burns and shock yesterday after a gas explosion shattered her flat. Mr Peter Smith, her son Michael, and Kate Drury, a nurse, who rescued Mrs Garratty suffered smoke inhalation.

● Part of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, was evacuated after a gas leak was discovered. The area was sealed off and 60 people were evacuated from their homes.

● A cloud of hydrochloric acid vapour spread over the Severn Channel after a leak at the Tenneco Organics chemical plant at Avonmouth.

● Health officials are investigating the cause of a gas cloud in Essex believed to have come from an oil refinery. Hundreds of people were warned to keep doors and windows closed.

The stresses of communities waiting for settlement with honour

Moderates yearn for compromise in Scargill's jobs crusade

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Moderate miners' leaders are seeking a new initiative to get talks restarted before the National Coal Board achieved its target of persuading 51 per cent of strikers to return.

They want a more flexible, two-pronged approach on pay and the crucial issue of pit closures, but they do not command anything like a majority on the 26-man executive of the National Union of Mineworkers.

And as the traditionally right-wing areas make louder and louder succession noises, it is unlikely that the moderates will ever win over the dominant centre-left coalition, which favours continuing the bitter struggle that pundits outside the industry have written off as a lost cause.

In private, coalfield leaders who make up the union's day-to-day governing body are frank about the strains and stresses that the dispute in its eleventh month, is causing. But they will not publicly admit defeat, or its possibility.

That, they insist, "would be like betraying our members, who have sacrificed so much."

The furthest they will go is to admit that most miners are ready to resume work, if there is an "honourable settlement". They are vague about what such a deal might be, although they point out that many pits closed in the 10 years since *Plan for Coal* was drawn up, and practically all shut on grounds that could be termed "uneconomic".

Mr Jim Colgan, Midlands area member of the NUM executive, said: "Most of my men on strike would like to go back to work but the Government is deliberately holding the NCB back from negotiations to allow the anti-trade union working miners' committee to consolidate their position and split the union."

His perception that there is a "dead hand of Number 10" on the controls is widely shared among the strikers, who also repeat without embarrassment of sense of naivete that this is a strike about jobs, their own and those of their children.

They say what they mean and mean what they say, and the fervour with which they believe it has turned the conflict into a crusade rather than a run-of-the-mill industrial dispute.

Hence, perhaps, the evident lack of long-range thinking as to how it can be ended.

Mr Arthur Scargill, fund-

Pit striker accused of taxi attack

Raymond Richard Liddington, aged 39, a striking miner, was demanded on bail for six weeks yesterday by Ebbs Vale magistrates accused of throwing an 8lb lump of rock through the window of a taxi taking two working miners to their pit.

Mr Liddington, of Abertillery, Gwent, was charged with assault and causing criminal damage.

The conditions of bail were that he should not picket during the present NUM dispute.

● An attempt by 19 working Yorkshire miners to obtain injunctions to stop mass picketing at coalfields in their area was adjourned in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Scargill claimed that the

One woman and her passion for a valley

From Tim Jones
Nant-y-Moel

Mrs Muriel Williams, of Nant-y-Moel in the Ogwen Valley, Mid Glamorgan, where she was once mayor in the local borough council, sees the miners' strike in simple terms.

Nant-y-Moel exists because of coal, and so does the rest of the valley community. To Mrs Williams it is as simple and as serious as that.

"God help us," she said. "If Mrs Thatcher wins the election then you can say goodbye to justice for the working man because if she destroys our union there will be nothing left."

The little community is dependent economically on the wages earned by the 600 miners who in normal times have to travel to pits away from the valley to earn their living. The two local pits having been closed by the coal board.

Mrs Williams knows that if their jobs go, then no new industry will be attracted to her beautiful, but isolated valley.

In the valley there are two choirs, a brass band, three youth clubs, a drama group and five rugby clubs. There are even those who dare to play football.

People help each other through adversity. "We have our culture and our traditions," she said. "We want nothing for nothing. We just want the dignity of work."

The people in the South seem to have no idea of our problems or appreciation of our

communities. It almost seems that Thatcher is punishing the Welsh nation because we dare to vote for socialism."

Mr Arthur Lock, a former union official at the Western colliery, one of the two local closed pits, said: "Why on earth do they think we are fighting to defend stinking jobs

in the pitch black? There are no lavatories or lunch-breaks, no lights or scenery. We are fighting because our community and our culture depends on it."

Mrs Williams agreed. "They won't break us. Our fear is that once again others will crack and we will be left alone. But we will not bend."

Both steps would be a bargaining tack towards the NCB. The 15-man union side of the JNCC is a more politically balanced body than the three national officials which has handled negotiations so far, and to talk about colliery closures through CINCC would bring in the pit deputies and management unions who accept that there must be an economic dimension to pit closures.

The board pins its hopes on the drift back to work, hoping that the steady haemorrhaging of support for the strike will finally compel the NUM leadership to concede, at the point of exhaustion, that they must accept that collieries will close when the industry deems them non-viable financially.

However, the prediction from inside Yorkshire, the coalfield where it all started, is that the strike will go on "beyond March and April" because the board and the Government have underestimated the depth of bitterness and determination to stick it out.

At the end of Mr Scargill's speech there were queues of young miners and their wives waiting on the stage for him to autograph posters and scraps of paper. The chant "Here we go, here we go" that has almost become his anthem during the strike echoed round the hall.

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Mrs Muriel Williams: A determined fighter for her valley.

communities. It almost seems that Thatcher is punishing the Welsh nation because we dare to vote for socialism."

Mr Arthur Lock, a former union official at the Western colliery, one of the two local closed pits, said: "Why on earth do they think we are fighting to defend stinking jobs

in the pitch black? There are no lavatories or lunch-breaks, no lights or scenery. We are fighting because our community and our culture depends on it."

Mrs Williams agreed. "They won't break us. Our fear is that once again others will crack and we will be left alone. But we will not bend."

Both steps would be a bargaining tack towards the NCB. The 15-man union side of the JNCC is a more politically balanced body than the three national officials which has handled negotiations so far, and to talk about colliery closures through CINCC would bring in the pit deputies and management unions who accept that there must be an economic dimension to pit closures.

The board pins its hopes on the drift back to work, hoping that the steady haemorrhaging of support for the strike will finally compel the NUM leadership to concede, at the point of exhaustion, that they must accept that collieries will close when the industry deems them non-viable financially.

However, the prediction from inside Yorkshire, the coalfield where it all started, is that the strike will go on "beyond March and April" because the board and the Government have underestimated the depth of bitterness and determination to stick it out.

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Thames TV head called to IBA after Dallas deal

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

Thames Television found yesterday that the glory of its secret deal to snatch *Dallas* from the hands of the BBC was short-lived. Far from being the kind of entrepreneurial scoop of which it himself would have been proud, the deal left most television observers convinced that its architects would not last one minute in the lower rungs of Ewing Oil.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority called in Mr Bryan Cowgill, Thames's managing director, for talks yesterday about the way the next autumn series of *Dallas* was bought for £55,000 an episode, a record price, in talks which were unknown both to the BBC and Thames's fellow ITV companies.

At the same time, *Dallas* failed to make the TV top ten and the rest of the ITV network was still angry about the way the series was bought, and decided to meet next week to decide whether to show it. Two of the largest companies, Granada and Yorkshire, have said that they will not screen the series, and others are expected to follow suit.

The IBA said that the meeting with Mr Cowgill was "purely informational".

ITV companies now fear that Thames's action will result in a higher levy on their finances by the Exchequer and substantially increased subscriptions to Channel Four. The commercial network is negotiating on both points with the Treasury and the Home Office. The companies had hoped to stop the Treasury switching the levy from profits to revenue, and to limit the Channel Four subscriptions to a "cost of living" increase.

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Commentary

Burglar was on the run when he stole £750,000 antiques from Waddesdon

Richard Haynes, who burgled historic houses, has been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment to be served after he has completed a previous seven-year prison term from which he escaped.

Among the burglaries Haynes admitted was one at the National Trust's Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, in May 1983 when he stole antique snuff boxes worth £750,000.

Mr Justice Verney told Haynes, whose seven-year jail term ends in the summer of 1987: "Anyone who has read these papers will not doubt that you are an expert criminal and it would be an insult to treat you in any other way." Haynes, aged 30, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty on January 2 to five charges of burglary, three charges of escaping from custody, possessing drugs and firearms offences.

Details can only now be disclosed after an order by the judge which prevented publicity during the trial of an alleged accomplice.

The trial of Charles Regan, aged 30, of Newmarket Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, accused, among other charges, of burgling Waddesdon Manor

with Haynes, ended at Aylesbury Crown Court yesterday when the prosecution decided to offer no further evidence against him.

Mr Regan had been acquitted earlier this week of burgling Waddesdon Manor and two charges of assisting Haynes when the judge ruled that there was insufficient evidence against him.

Mr Justice Verney decided to discharge the jury trying Mr Regan on further charges of assisting Haynes and assisting an escaped prisoner. The move came after a juror overheard something outside court.

For Haynes' trial a tight security ring was thrown round the court. Haynes, dressed in prison uniform with "escaper's" yellow patches, was surrounded in the dock by seven prison officers. He had told detectives that he could escape again.

The detectives believe that Sandringham was on his list of possible targets. Among his possessions was a guide book to the royal home. They also believe that he stole to order, leaving behind valuable items that he was not asked to steal.

Mr Patrick O'Brien, for the prosecution, said that Haynes first escaped from his jailers at Norwich Crown Court, in

December 1980, minutes before he was due to appear on seven burglary charges. He had cut four iron bars on the cell window.

A month later he burgled Chipchase Castle in Northumberland, stealing antiques and works of art worth £47,698.

When Haynes was caught nine months later in London by armed police, a Beretta 9mm pistol and ammunition stolen from Chipchase was found in a flat.

Also in the flat, where he had been living as Nigel Lamb, were a face mask, a wig and other disguise implements. Two CS gas canisters were found at the spot where Haynes gave himself up after a rooftop chase.

Four months later he was free again, when he used a gas spray on guards taking him back to Norwich Crown Court to face trial for escaping and the burglary of Chipchase Castle.

Eleven months later he burgled Waddesdon Manor.

Before Haynes was finally trapped he escaped from detectives once again, after being arrested for a drugs offence in Cornwall. He had been living among hippies, travelling in a caravan convoy, burgling chemists' shops to obtain drugs.



Lord Wilson flanked by Mr Hans Schwarz (right), the artist, Lord Gormley (first left), and Mr Sidney Weighell at the National Portrait Gallery unveiling (Photograph: John Voos).

A triumvirate of retired trade union leaders enjoyed varying degrees of success in beating industrial action and had weather to attend the unveiling of their likenesses at the National Portrait Gallery in London yesterday.

Mr Sidney Weighell, late of the National Union of Railwaymen, took the insider's precaution of travelling from Yorkshire a day early. Lord Gormley, the retired miners' president who is recovering from a stroke, came by car but used a side entrance to avoid a small knot of striking miners waiting to speak to him.

Mr Tom Jackson, who forsook leadership of the postmen in favour of anti-quarian bookselling, was confined in Leeds by snow and an absence of trains.

Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, whose government suffered at

Gallery unveiling of ex-union leaders

By Alan Hamilton

with Britain's industrial hierarchy. It was my privilege to know them in good times and worrying times.

The three were chosen by the National Gallery trustees because, although regarded as right-wingers in their time, all led major national strikes during the 1970s. "They couldn't have picked three better men", Mr Weighell said.

Lord Gormley, depicted in pin-striped suit, mirror-polished shoes, and raincoat thrown casually over his shoulders, declared it to be a perfect likeness.

Lord Wilson, depicted in

Helicopter used by the Queen had fake parts

By Robin Young

Private industry announced yesterday the starting date for the latest stage in its attack on the worldwide epidemic of product and trade-mark counterfeiting, which is alleged to have included counterfeit parts in a helicopter used by the Queen.

Such counterfeiting is estimated to account for up to 6 per cent of world trade, worth more than £50 billion a year.

The International Chamber of Commerce, which has 7,000 members in more than 100 countries, announced that its London-based Counterfeiting Intelligence Bureau (CIB) will start work on February 4.

Mr Eric Ellen, former Chief Constable of the Port of London Authority, who is director of the CIB, said that investigations were already under way into counterfeit perfumes and cosmetics coming from the Middle East, watches being exported from the Far East, and fraudulent pharmaceuticals.

Mr Ellen said that an American congressional report had disclosed that 600 Nato helicopters had been fitted with counterfeit rotor parts: heart pacemakers and aircraft wing bolts had been counterfeited; and a crop of coffee in Kenya had been devastated by the use of fraudulent fertilizer.

He added that, as well as the Queen's helicopter, that belonging to the President of Egypt had been found to contain counterfeit parts. In Britain, the authorities had seized fraudulent and defective brake fittings for aircraft and cars.

Dr John Hayes, director of the Gallery, said that the trustees had been anxious to widen the representation of contemporary British life. The six-ft square canvas, with a frame made by British Rail engineering apprentices at Derby, was their first depicting trade union leaders.

Marriage wait

Young people in the Irish Republic will not be allowed to marry until they are 18, under legislation being drafted by the Dublin government. Under existing law, girls can marry at 14, and boys at 16.

Tour bookings down by a third

By Michael Horsnell

Bookings for summer holidays are about 35 per cent down on last year because of price rises, the slide in the pound and the prospect of surcharges. Thomson Holidays, Britain's biggest holiday company, disclosed yesterday.

But Mr John Macneill, managing director, said that comparisons were misleading because of the record number of holidays sold last year.

He also said that last-minute holidays would be harder to book this year and the number

of holidays on offer would be generally reduced.

"It is our view that cutbacks will be more widespread than for summer 1984 and that there could be shortages for clients leaving it late to book."

Cutbacks could also lead to more consolidation by holiday companies when several operators share one aircraft rather than the two they had expected. That could lead to travel arrangements and sometimes hotels being changed. Cosmos Holidays said that

bookings were about 35 per cent down, although it advised clients to book early to secure their first choice holiday.

Horizon said that although bookings were down there had been an improvement during the past few days.

All the companies said there was little room for price reductions in hotel or air costs.

About 750,000 holidays have been removed from the market this year because of the crash of several smaller operators last autumn.

Twins born after infusions



Mrs Rosemary Wood with twins of six weeks, Richard (left) and Katie.

A woman who became one of the first in Britain to have a baby with the aid of a hormone infuser attached to her arm, has now had twins by the same method, our Science Correspondent writes.

Mrs Rosemary Wood, aged 25, of Farnham, Surrey, and her husband, John, were told by doctors three years ago that they were unable to have children. However, she then joined patients at the Middlesex Hospital, London, who were given the device, a pulsatile infusion system. As a result, she had a baby boy, Michael, now aged two.

She has now had twins, Richard and Katie. The device, about the size of a standard music cassette, is strapped to the arm for about four or five months. It contains a tiny syringe, replaced weekly, which injects the hormone LHRH into the blood every 90 minutes.

Pickfords Travel to sell 'bucket shop' air tickets

By Michael Bally

"Bucket shop" air tickets will be on sale under a scheme evolved by Pickfords Travel, part of the employee-owned National Freight Consortium.

With 230 branches, Pickfords is one of Britain's biggest travel agents. Its new Farefinder scheme starting this week, will give travellers instant access through video screens in each branch to cut-price air fares for destinations throughout the world without the insecurity of some bucket shops.

Mr Neil Thompson, product development manager at Pickfords, said yesterday: "These

Transport Editor

are published IATA (International Air Transport Association) fares for groups which we are selling individually. There is no illegality."

He denied charges that Pickfords fares would be higher than those offered by bucket shops because they had to go through middlemen.

	Farefinder Cheap	Return
London to Sydney (high season)	£230	£380
To Johannesburg	£215	£1,085
To Los Angeles	£365	£420
To Frankfurt	£85	£104

Action against tax evaders stepped up

Tax evaders were yesterday given a warning that the campaign against them is being intensified. The Inland Revenue has been so successful in tracking down the missing millions that it has decided to devote more resources to the task of looking at small companies and job "moonlighters".

News of the moves came in a report from the Commons public accounts committee, which looked at the investigations branches of the Inland Revenue.

Stonehenge plan would close main road

By John Young

A plan to restore and improve the setting of Stonehenge, protecting it from the worst intrusions of late 20th-century mass tourism, was put forward yesterday by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

Although the report of a study group and purporting to be a consultative document, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, chairman of the commission, which last year assumed ownership of the site from the Department of the Environment, made clear which proposals he and his colleagues favoured.

The most controversial part of the scheme envisages the

closure of about a mile of the A344 road which passes close to the north side of the ancient monument.

Local people are strongly opposed to the idea and yesterday Mrs Amy Hall, a Wiltshire county councillor, said she was ready to sit down in the road as a symbolic protest.

Mrs Hall said she favoured the building of a replica "foamhenge" in Amesbury as the centre of a Walt Disney-style theme park, creating scores of jobs and taking the pressure off the real stones.

But Lord Montagu said he

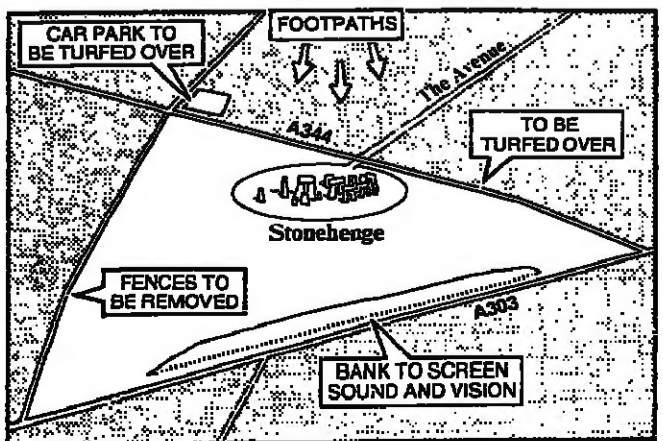
was not in favour of a replica. The commission's aim was to improve the quality of a visit to Stonehenge and to provide visitors with an exciting experience.

The commission wanted to open up the surrounding landscape, with a network of footpaths to give maximum access to sites and monuments in the neighbourhood.

Apart from provision for the disabled, access to Stonehenge would be on foot, a walk of about three quarters of a mile from a new visitors' centre and car park at Larkhill, which would offer beautiful views and would approach the ancient avenue which one led people to the site.

As well as the closure of the A344, the commission also favours the building of a bank along the north side of the A303 to reduce noise and to screen vehicles.

Lord Montagu said that implementation of the scheme would take at least three years, allowing for the time needed for agreement with the Ministry of Defence to release land, planning permission for new buildings and a possible public inquiry into the proposed road closure. The cost was put at £3million at today's prices.



There's no need to move your establishment to the Mediterranean to enjoy the warmth.

A lot of hotel managements have discovered how to take the chill off their heating bills and give their guests a warm welcome at the same time.

With gas. Two recent developments have made all the difference.

First: since 1983 supplies of gas have become more available.

Hotels that have been using other fuels have found they could now turn to gas.

Second: the latest gas equipment is getting more fuel-efficient.

That's what's happened at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool.

They changed over to modern gas boilers for space heating. They used new direct-fired gas heating in a Banqueting Suite.

Result: banquet indeed. Saving of 52% on fuel costs.

At the Ariel Hotel in Harmondsworth they were already enjoying the benefits of gas.

But they enjoyed it even more when they

replaced their old gas boilers for the latest ones and found a 40% fuel saving.

Many hotels, up and down the country, from cosy little places in the country, to gigantic palaces in our main cities are taking advantage of the new developments in gas.

Don't you think your hotel ought to be getting the benefits too?

Contact Commercial Sales at your British Gas region, and we'll analyse both your present and future fuel requirements. We'll advise you on the right equipment for your needs. You'll probably be pleasantly surprised by the very welcome savings you'll make.

PARLIAMENT JANUARY 17 1985

Benefits for elderly

Falklands future

Regional aid

Fowler to look at heating benefits system

COLD WEATHER

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, indicated during questions in the Commons that the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Norman Fowler, is to look into the system under which special heating allowances are paid during exceptionally cold weather.

The system has been criticized as unfair to pensioners and others living in what are generally thought to be the colder parts of the country. Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, described the system as unjust. There must be a system, he said, which is fundamentally wrong with the system introduced by this Government in 1981 which forbids help to people who are freezing cold to help them to get out of the cold.

Mrs Thatcher told him: It is surely ridiculous to express sympathy but to support a strike designed to make it cold for people in houses.

Mrs Thatcher told him: It is surely ridiculous to express sympathy but to support a strike designed to make it cold for people in houses.

What sort of Government is it that last November actually reduced by £1 heating allowances to the poorest pensioners who are between 70 and 74?

Does Mrs Thatcher understand how many of these people have their health put seriously at risk because they have insufficient money to heat their homes? Or can she take it this Government is only concerned with giving help to the rich and prosperous?

Mrs Thatcher: The changes in heating allowances enabled heating allowances to be given to more pensioners. That was very welcome. Mr Kinnock is quick to ask questions about heating allowances but equally quick to support a strike deliberately aimed at cutting off people's heating.

Mr Kinnock: In view of the extremely cold weather and the promise of more to come, does she believe pensioners in all parts of the country should have the same entitlement to the severe weather payment?

Does Mrs Thatcher not think there is a better system of ensuring that those who have to endure very low temperatures on very low incomes are helped?

Mrs Thatcher: Single payments does give different temperatures. I understand the Secretary of State for Social Services. (Mr Norman Fowler) is looking into the matter, but for the time being the objective tests laid down continue.

I hope Mr Kinnock will now urge the coal miners to go back. It is surely ridiculous to express sympathy but to support a strike deliberately aimed at making it cold for people in houses.

Talks with islanders on constitution

FALKLANDS

The decision about the future constitution of the Falkland Islands is being discussed with representatives of the islanders and will eventually be brought before Parliament in the form of an Order in Council. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions in the Commons.

The matter was raised by Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, who asked whether the constitutional safeguards of the Falkland Islands would be in a Bill to be introduced by the Government in the House of Commons.

This is a major issue of foreign policy, she said, which this House has not discussed and it runs counter to the recommendations of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee.

Mrs Thatcher: I understand that Dr Owen is talking about discussions which we are having and have had with the Falkland Islands Council about the future.

He would have thought it strange if we had made an attempt to make any decision without discussing their own future with the people. We are discussing it with them.

When we reach a conclusion details will be placed in the Library for MPs and when the new constitution is ready and the text is ready, they will be introduced by Orders in Council. (Shouts of "Why?")

The orders will be made under the British Settlements Act which provides for such orders to be laid before Parliament, so they are in accordance with the constitution of this House.

UK not one-product state

Britain is not a one-product economy, the Prime Minister said in the Commons. Replying to a question about the lower interest rates in Germany she said that measures which had been taken there to keep down public spending would not be acceptable to the Commons.

Mr Geoffrey Robinson (Conventry, North-West, Lab) had recalled an intervention he had made on an earlier occasion when he had suggested to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the Government was not under threat, that interest rates in Germany had not been raised and there had not been panic action as in Britain.

Mr Lawson, the Chancellor, had replied that the Deutschmark had been at a lower rate of inflation, but the real reason was that Britain was seen as a one-product economy.

We have had a levelling of our manufacturing base (he said) with

more than 25 billion deficit last year on manufacturing goods. Will she consider the House and more important, tell us what she will do about it?

Mrs Thatcher: Oil constitutes only about 5 per cent of the output of our economy and no one should judge it as a one-product economy.

On the question of the Deutschmark, they have been pursuing policies successfully for many years. It is 2.5 per cent. They have been pursuing policies to keep down public spending and to cut it in ways which would not be acceptable to this House.

They have increased pension contributions and kept down public sector pay for a long time so much so that they were able to have tax cuts. They did not have the restrictive practices and over-manning for years, as we had.

Mr JUSTICE Nourse said that applications in two related actions sought to raise the defence that the proceedings were an attempt to enforce foreign proprietary laws which ought not to be recognized, or ought not to be enforced in England. The plaintiffs contended that that defence was bound to fail and ought to be dismissed at once.

Williams & Humbert Ltd, the plaintiff company in the first action, was incorporated in England in 1923. It acquired the business of a sherry and port shippers carried on by a firm of that name since 1877. In 1972 its entire share capital was acquired by a Spanish company, Rumasa SA, 50 per cent of whose shares were held by Jose Maria Ruiz Mateos and 10 per cent each by four brothers and a sister.

In the period of political uncertainty following the death of General Franco in 1975 arrangements were made, including the incorporation of W. H. Trade Marks (Jersey) Ltd, for that company to hold and exploit trade marks and the goodwill, assigned to it by Williams & Humbert, with, by a supplemental agreement, the granting back to Williams & Humbert of

Winick: Elderly are seriously at risk

In addition, there is a provision for single payments on the basis of the cost of the fuel. It is a series of objective tests and leaves it to the chief adjudication officer.

If Mr Kinnock is really concerned he would tell the striking miners to go back to work. They are out on strike to prevent heating getting to old people and to industry.

Mr Kinnock: Why does she not answer the question for once on the subject raised - the subject of the severe weather payment?

Does Mrs Thatcher not think there is a better system of ensuring that those who have to endure very low temperatures on very low incomes are helped?

Mrs Thatcher: Single payments does give different temperatures. I understand the Secretary of State for Social Services. (Mr Norman Fowler) is looking into the matter, but for the time being the objective tests laid down continue.

I hope Mr Kinnock will now urge the coal miners to go back. It is surely ridiculous to express sympathy but to support a strike deliberately aimed at making it cold for people in houses.

Powell says invite the Russians

VE DAY

A plea that a place should be made for Russian representation at British VE commemorations in Italy was made by Mr Kenneth Powell in the Commons and he was cheered when he referred to the suffering, fortitude and valor of the Russian people which had made victory possible.

Mrs Thatcher: The Prime Minister, promised to bear the point in mind.

Mr Robert Rhodes James (Cambridge, C) was the first to raise the issue of the fortieth anniversary commemoration. He said that he was sure that the Second World War did not end in May 1945.

Tens of thousands of young people from this country (he said) served and suffered in the campaign in the Far East, including members of my own family.

If we are commemorating the end of the war it is going to be said again that the Fourteenth Army, which was the British Army, is going to be forgotten again.

Mrs Thatcher: We are aware that the war in the Far East did not end until August 1945 and of the important and brave part played by so many people. We shall remember both occasions in the celebrations, or commemorations, which we have.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP): In reflecting on the commemoration of Victory in Europe, which has wide public support, we should bear in mind the best way in which, in the framework of that commemoration, there should be a place for the representation of the Russian people, whose suffering, fortitude and valor made our own survival and victory possible. (Cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: I will bear that point in mind but what we are planning is a commemoration in this country. There will be many representatives in this country, such as high commissioners and ambassadors who we shall expect to attend.

Later, during business questions, Mr Kevin Barron (Rother Valley, Lab): The common cost in the keeping the surplus in this country than for it to go to African countries

COAL DISPUTE

The House of Commons was suspended for 20 minutes when 15 Labour MPs refused to sit down after the Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, had refused to take further points of order relating to calls for an early debate in Government time on the miners' strike.

Among the MPs who ignored repeated requests from the Speaker for order were Mr Tony Benn (Chorley), Mr Martin Llanegle (Bolsover), Mr Brian Sedgwick (Hackney South and Shoreditch), Mr Kevin Barron (Rother Valley), Mr Robert Pary (Liverpool Riverside), Mr David Smith (Conventry South-East), Mr Terry Fields (Liverpool Broadgreen), Mr Ernest Roberts (Hackney North and Stoke Newington), Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield Hillsborough), Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North), and Mr Ronald Brown (Edinburgh Leith).

Mr Benn had been the first Labour MP to raise business questions to call for a full debate in Government time on the miners' dispute.

Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, said it was for Mr Benn and other MPs to make use of such opportunities as were available to discuss the dispute.

He gave a similar reply to other Labour MP who rose during business questions with the same appeal. Mr Martin Flannery, Mr Neilist and Mr Flannery.

At the end of business questions, Mr Benn asked the Speaker, on a

point of order, to protect the interests of those MPs who had their requests for a full debate in Government time on the miners' dispute turned down.

The Speaker replied that it was not his responsibility.

After other Labour MPs raised the issue on points of order, he told them they were being unfair to other MPs who hoped to speak in the following debate on regional policy, by taking up valuable time.

Mr Kenneth Lewis (Stamford and Spalding, C) said the Labour MPs' appeals were an abuse of the House and the issue illustrated the failure of the Labour front bench to hold a debating Opposition time.

The Speaker agreed it was an abuse of the House and said he was bound to give regard to the large number of MPs who wanted to speak on regional policy and give consent to a debating Opposition time.

When a number of Labour MPs jumped to their feet, the Speaker called for order and said he would not take further points of order on a debate on the miners' dispute

during government time and for the Speaker to protect the interests of backbenchers.

Mr Heffer, seeking an emergency debate, said that he needed a statement from the Government about its reasons for allowing the dispute to continue and trying to drive the miners back to work by the use of force.

The need for a debate was urgent because of the extremely severe weather and the effects of the dispute on the entire nation because of the weather.

The nation deserved an answer.

The Speaker said the rules laid down that some new development must have occurred and that he should be given notice before 12 o'clock that the weather did not start after 12 o'clock.

He did not consider that the matter raised by Mr Heffer was appropriate for discussion under the standing order.

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Minister urged to restore balance in grain market

AGRICULTURE

There was no point in spending up to £60 million to keep the surplus from the 1984 bumper wheat harvest in store when there was an overwhelming case for transferring most of it to the grain areas of the world as soon as possible.

Mr John MacGregor, an Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said in the Commons during questions that the Government was already committed to sending 1.2 million tonnes in this marketing year to Ethiopia and the other drought-stricken countries.

That is a very laudable and an indication that the Government is doing all it can to make use of our cereal surplus in that direction.

Sir Peter Mills (Devon, West and Torridge, C) would it not be wiser to express this surplus in the form of wheat to the major exporters during the last few years.

It is right to pay tribute to it and its importance to the British economy.

In 1983 it had been estimated that spending on regional industrial incentives in 1985-86 would be just under £500 million. It was now clear that, with the new policy and traditional arrangements, that expenditure would have increased to well over £600 million. Such a bulge of expenditure simply could not be afforded.

That was why the moratorium was being introduced. It would not, however, apply to projects completed applications for grant either received or postmarked before midnight tonight.

This did not mean there would be any substantive reduction in spend on the old scheme but that the new policy and the new areas coverage. In effect, the two schemes would be running side by side with considerable overlap.

Mr David Maclean (Penrith and the Border, C) Surely it is not to be expected that we have got two to three months' surplus of wheat. Food supplies are essential and we could not feed the rest of the world if we did not export surplus.

Mr MacGregor: It is a notable achievement that our self-sufficiency in wheat has increased from 10 per cent about ten years ago to over 80 per cent today.

I can just imagine what questions I would have faced if we had a major deficiency of cereals with prices soaring and the effect on the consumer would be the opposite to what it is because of our success.

Mr MacGregor: I cannot agree that the economic cost is as Mr Barron said. It would be more expensive. I share entirely his humanitarian concern. The UK is playing a major part in the export of grain as emergency food aid within the EEC.

Mr Barron: I am sure that the economic cost is as Mr Barron said. It would be more expensive. I share entirely his humanitarian concern. The UK is playing a major part in the export of grain as emergency food aid within the EEC.

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Moratorium put on development grants

REGIONAL POLICY

A four-month moratorium on the payment of regional development grants, to take effect immediately, was announced by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, during questions in the Commons.

He told MPs this meant there would be a four month gap between the approval of an application and the start of the grant.

The moratorium would not apply to payments under the new scheme which came into force on November 1st last year, but would ensure that next year the Government spent no more on regional industrial incentives than it had forecast in 1983.

The Government immediately drew protest from the Opposition benches.

Mr Tebbit said he, together with the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Secretary of State for Wales had agreed on an approach which would normally be announced when the Public Expenditure White Paper was published. They all thought it wrong for the House to debate these matters in ignorance of decisions which had been taken and which would soon be public knowledge.

The transitional provision protecting decisions made on the basis of the old assisted areas map and the old scheme would overlap the new policy and the new areas coverage. In effect, the two schemes would be running side by side with considerable overlap.

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Edwards offer to councils

WALES

The Welsh rate support Grant for 1985-86 was approved by the Commons late on Wednesday night by 318 votes to 179 - Government majority, 139.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, the Secretary of State for Wales, said that the 1985-86 budgetary arrangements would be both individually and collectively more on course to spend in line with the Government's expenditure plans. He would be prepared to consider, with the local authority associations, whether an alternative means of containing expenditure and encouraging moderate rate increases was possible for future years, rather than continuing with the present method of individual authority expenditure targets and grant-holdback penalties.

He hoped it would be possible to remove individual targets from the system, but no one should doubt his determination to retain guidelines figures if it was likely that, by abandoning them, expenditure would exceed Government plans and enable one or two irresponsible authorities to act in a way that they would not be able to justify.

He made no apology for tougher grant withholding penalties. Rate reductions were possible in some authorities, particularly in the heavily indebted areas of Mid and West Glamorgan. These could also be used to increase the level of inflation to other authorities, such as Dyfed, but the general picture should be one of an average rate increase below the level of inflation.

He hoped this settlement as very fair. There need be no slashing cuts or horrendous reductions in services. If authorities generally continued to act responsibly.

Mr Barry Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales, said the grant settlement was extremely harsh. Local government in Wales displayed restraint responsibly. This settlement had missed a golden chance to tackle unemployment.

If the Treasury had its brutal hold on local government finance, MPs might be planning to tackle rotten housing, asbestos problems of the environment and deterioration and the suburban long-term unemployment crisis.

Funding local authorities more generously would be better than cuts to the better off. He urged the Government to think again: the Welsh people deserved a much better deal.

Changes to system in prospect

As it seems from estimates that this country is likely to be the only one within its quota by the end of the year, there are no strong arguments for this country proceeding with its own scheme for marketing quotas, whatever our European partners may say.

Mr Michael Jellicoe, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said during Commons questions.

His department was having detailed discussions with the milk industry on how changes could be made to the quota system. Some alterations already made would be of great assistance to Britain, he said.

Mr Michael Calvin (Romsey and Watercote, C) said: Perhaps the next time Mr Jellicoe meets the president of the National Farmers' Union he would be prepared to discuss marketing of quotas on sale or lease in the future. The time he goes to Brussels for price fixing negotiations with our European partners we have firm proposals to put before them?

Mr Jellicoe: I would be happy to have those discussions. The time he goes to Brussels for price fixing negotiations with our European partners we have firm proposals to put before them?

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available to other regions of the United Kingdom?

Mr Jellicoe: He has no doubt read in the House that the EEC Commission put forward proposals on Monday which suggested it was possible within regions of a country and between regions to make exchange of quotas.

It was determined from the Commission that this was intended to embrace two regions of the country where one is on formula A and another on formula B. I think the scheme is useful, but they are not yet finalized.

Mr Michael Latham (Rutland and Melton, C) Before the first anniversary of quotas, does he expect to have sorted out all the rights and wrongs? Mr Jellicoe: I would be optimistic to think we had sorted out all the bureaucratic hassles.

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Recognition of foreign confiscatory laws

Williams & Humbert Ltd v W. & H. Trade Marks (Jersey) Ltd and Others
Rumasa SA and Others v Multinvest (UK) Ltd and Others
Before Mr Justice Nourse
[Judgment delivered December 19]

The proposition that English law would not recognize foreign laws which purported to confiscate the property of particular individuals or classes of individuals was not supported by existing authorities, and was contrary to such principles as could be extracted from those authorities. The authorities showed that foreign laws which discriminated against nationals of this country in a time of war by purporting to confiscate movable property in the foreign state would not be recognized, or, which, by discrimination on grounds of race, religion, or the like, constituted an infringement of human rights that they ought not to be recognized as laws at all, would not be recognized as such above.

Mr Justice Nourse held that the confiscatory applications in Chancery Division actions brought at the instance of the State of Spain, by Williams & Humbert Ltd against W.

H. Trade Marks (Jersey) Ltd and its members of the Mateos family, and by Rumasa SA, Banco de Jerez SA and Banco del Norte SA against Multinvest (UK) Ltd, Mr Carlos Quintas, its managing director, and Mr Jose Maria Ruiz Mateos.

Mr C. A. Brodie, QC, Mr Alan Smith, QC, Mr Robert Reid, QC and Mr Simon Berry for the defendants in the Trade Marks action; Mr Robert Reid, QC and Mr W. R. E. for the defendants in the Multinvest action.

MR JUSTICE NOURSE said that applications in two related actions sought to raise the defence that the proceedings were an attempt to enforce foreign proprietary laws which ought not to be recognized, or ought not to be enforced in England. The plaintiffs contended that that defence was bound to fail and ought to be dismissed at once.

Williams & Humbert Ltd, the plaintiff company in the first action, was incorporated in England in 1923. It acquired the business of a sherry and port shippers carried on by a firm of that name since 1877. In 1972 its entire share capital was acquired by a Spanish company, Rumasa SA, 50 per cent of whose shares were held by Jose Maria Ruiz Mateos and 10 per cent each by four brothers and a sister.

In the period of political uncertainty following the death of General Franco in 1975 arrangements were made, including the incorporation of W. H. Trade Marks (Jersey) Ltd, for that company to hold and exploit trade marks and the goodwill, assigned to it by Williams & Humbert, with, by a supplemental agreement, the granting back to Williams & Humbert of

the licence to use the trade marks on terms whereby W & H Jersey had the right to terminate the licences summarily without notice if the whole or any part of the share capital of the undertaking, property or assets of Rumasa or of any subsidiary, should be confiscated, compulsorily acquired or threatened with any such action.

A trust deed was also executed whereby in the event of confiscation or the like, the shares of W & H Jersey were to be held on trust for Mr Mateos and his brothers and sister.

On February 23, 1983 a Royal Decree came into effect in Spain whereby all shares representing the capital of some 250 odd companies in the Rumasa Group, including two banks, Banco de Jerez SA and Banco del Norte SA, and 21 other banks, were forcibly expropriated, and Spain took immediate possession and control of the companies and their assets.

That law was replaced and amended by new law on June 28, 1983. An application to challenge the validity of the Royal Decree in the Constitutional Court of Spain failed. An application to challenge the new law was still pending, but it was agreed that the court must proceed on the footing that its validity would be upheld.

The practical results of the expropriation were that the shares in W & H Jersey, and with them the benefit of the Dry Sack trade marks, became held in trust, under the deed of 1976, for the beneficiaries absolutely; and second that the State of Spain became directly entitled to control the affairs of Rumasa and the two banks and indirectly the affairs of Williams & Humbert Ltd.

If the arrangements made in 1975 and 197

East-West arms dialogue: The pace quickens

Belgian mission to explain cruise delay

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, is to visit NATO capitals over the next few weeks to ask permission for his country to postpone deployment of the 48 cruise missiles it is meant to receive.

Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, tried to make it clear in Brussels yesterday that he had still not decided whether to make up his mind about deployment and that he was still seeking advice and guidance from within the alliance.

He held a press conference on his return from Washington, where he had been under strong pressure from President Reagan to keep the promise to deploy the missiles in Belgium from mid-March.

But faced with the fact that the latest opinion polls show half the Belgian population is opposed to deployment, Mr Martens yesterday refused again to give a clear answer. He is known to want to postpone cruise deployment at least until after the general election which is not scheduled until December. His Liberal-Government partners in the Government want deployment now. Both to honour the NATO promise and to leave as long a period as possible to calm public opinion before the election.

Mr Tindemans, who is himself a deployment hawk, has been asked to try to win time in agreement with other allies. In his tour of capitals he will be arguing with as much conviction as possible that the present Government stands a better chance of being returned if deployment has not taken place - and that if the Opposition is returned then deployment will be cancelled.

Mr Martens yesterday promised no more than that the timetable for deployment would be decided by the end of March "after full consultation and agreement with our NATO allies".

This means that if Mr Tindemans cannot report that postponement will be acceptable to the alliance, the Belgian Government will be forced

either to go ahead as promised with deployment or to risk the Liberals forcing an early election by pulling out of the coalition. In those circumstances, deployment could not fail to be the central issue in the campaign - something Mr Martens is keen to avoid.

● **ROME:** Mr Nikolai Linkov, the Soviet Ambassador, has received a courteous rebuff from the Italian Government to his proposal that the installation of cruise missiles be held up while new disarmament talks are prepared (Peter Nichols writes).

The Ambassador called late on Wednesday evening on Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, officially to inform him of the Soviet reading of the outcome of the talks in Geneva between Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister. Signor Craxi issued a statement after the talks expressing his hope that the negotiations would be reopened soon "without prejudice and in an open and constructive spirit".

The Soviet move came two days after a similar diplomatic report on the Geneva meeting had been made to the Belgian Government.

● **BUDAPEST:** Mr Kaare Willoch, the Norwegian Prime Minister, arrived in Hungary yesterday on the first visit of a NATO leader to a Warsaw Pact state since an American-Soviet agreement to resume arms talks, the Hungarian MTI news agency said. The visit was arranged well before the US-Soviet agreement in Geneva, but it will provide the first opportunity for European allies of each superpower to discuss the forthcoming arms negotiations (Reuter reports).

Mr Willoch was having a first round of talks with Mr Gyorgy Lazar, the Hungarian Prime Minister yesterday and will meet Mr János Kádár, the Communist Party leader today, before returning to Norway tomorrow evening.



Hart's two-hour Kremlin sounding

Senator Gary Hart, standing in front of St Basil's Cathedral in Moscow's Red Square, after a two-hour "friendly" meeting yesterday with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Mr Gromyko told Mr Hart that the timing and location of new arms negotiations had not yet been agreed between the two superpowers (Reuter reports).

Mr Hart said Mr Gromyko had restated Moscow's objections to President Reagan's "Star Wars" programme for space defence but had not repeated an earlier hint that new talks could be torpedoed by continuing US missile deployments.

"He did say on a more positive note that there is a dialogue going on about the timing and the

location of these discussions but that there had been no concrete results."

The Democratic senator, who arrived on Wednesday for talks with Soviet officials, said Mr Gromyko told him both sides wanted to come to the talks "not to discuss generalities but to offer concrete proposals for concrete problems".

Mr Gromyko had restated Soviet views on the arms talks in virtually the same language that he had used in a 110-minute television broadcast on Sunday.

He concentrated on Moscow's argument that Washington must drop its Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) space defence programme if progress was to be achieved over intermediate and long-range nuclear weapons.

The Popieluszko murder trial

Driver's escape from police car fit for John Buchan hero

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The driver of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the pro-Solidarity priest murdered three months ago, yesterday gave a graphic account of his desperate escape from the clutches of three secret policemen and gave some hint of the panic that gripped the authorities when they became aware of the attack.

Mr Waldemar Chrostowski, a tough-looking ex-commando in his 40s was testifying in the murder trial in Torun.

Speaking calmly and concisely, he managed to fend off repeated attempts by the state prosecutors - Mr Zygmunt Kilacki and Mr Leszek Pietrusinski - to trip him up and undermine his credibility as a witness.

His criminal record raised - he received suspended jail terms for assaulting policemen more than a decade ago - though yesterday he said the policeman had done the assaulting - and both prosecution and defence tried to suggest he had delayed reporting the attack for shadowy motives.

"I was in a state of shock," Mr Chrostowski said in explaining why he went to a church rather than a police station after throwing himself from the getaway car. "It was, after all, a man dressed as a policeman who had stopped us in the first place," he said.

It was not clear why the prosecutor should have tried to erode Mr Chrostowski's status as a witness. Mr Edward Wende, a lawyer for the Popieluszko family, made the point forcefully in court: "It's very strange to me that the prosecutor wants to undermine the testimony of his own principal witness."

After Mr Chrostowski managed to report the kidnapping to the police on the night of October 19, many bizarre events occurred suggesting that the Jaruzelski leadership immediately assessed the abduction of the priest as a disguised attempt to overthrow the Government.

As soon as the driver was taken to hospital plain clothes policemen came to photograph his wounds. By no means his normal procedure - and he was then transferred to the special Interior Ministry Hospital in Torun, where he was kept under close armed guard. Only after three days was he allowed to make contact with the outside world.

The Government dispatched a unit of highly-trained anti-terrorist commandos to escort the driver back to Warsaw. These commandos still sit, guns at the ready, in the Torun courtroom.

Mr Chrostowski's escape must rank for drama and bravery in the class of John Buchan's hero. On the moonlit night of the kidnapping, a Polish Fiat overtook the priest's car and flagged it down.

A man, now identified as ex-Lieutenant Waldemar Chmielewski, dressed in traffic policeman's uniform, asked for the driver's documents and snatched his car keys. He was then taken from the priest's Volkswagen Golf to the Fiat, on the pretext of a breathalyser test and was handcuffed.

"Why did you let your right hand be manacled?" the prosecutor asked yesterday.

Mr Chrostowski replied: "I was still not suspicious enough to resist."

Behind him another of the kidnappers pulled open the driver's mouth, stuffed in a gag and declared: "Here's a little something for you so that you don't cry too much on your last trip."

This kidnapper was later identified as ex-Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, who like Chmielewski and ex-Lieutenant Leszek Pekala and ex-Colonel Adam Pietruszka, faces the possibility of capital punishment if found guilty.

As the getaway car, driven by Pekala, sped down the Torun road the priest's driver bent forward, gripped the door-handle with his little finger, threw his body against the door and rolled out onto the road.

He was convinced that the priest had been knocked unconscious and stuffed into the boot. While he was being held in the front seat, a gun in his ribs, he had heard "a dull thud, as if a bag of flour had been hit by a club".

Yesterday, the prosecutor asked with incredulity: "Have you ever jumped out of cars before?" The driver replied that he had not, but that 20 years before he had received commando training.

Meanwhile, there are indications that the Interior Ministry, which oversees the secret police, is undergoing one of its biggest shake-ups since the late 1950s. The Interior Minister, General Czeslaw Kiszczak, has held meetings with two former senior party figures with extensive security experience, Mr Stanislaw Kania and Mr Mieczyslaw Moczar.

Acting on their advice and other draft proposals, he has come up with a way of restructuring the secret police to pursue its loyalty, to the political aims of the Jaruzelski Government.

Pessimism pervades European spirit

Brussels - The average citizen of Europe is rather gloomy these days and in Britain the chances are that he or she will be gloomier than most (Ian Murray writes).

This is shown up by the latest "Eurobarometer", the six-monthly opinion poll conducted by the European Commission to trace trends in the Community. Belgians seem the most miserable, with the French and Irish not far behind. Britons are also growing more pessimistic.

As far as fear of a third world war is concerned, the average European seems less convinced that one is "probable". In April 1980, 34 per cent believed war was not far off. Today, the figure is 13 per cent, with Britain at 14 per cent.

Palme's pledge on Wallenberg

Stockholm (Reuter) - Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, marked the 40th anniversary of the disappearance of the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg yesterday with a pledge that Sweden would continue its efforts to find out what happened to him.

In Washington, President Reagan yesterday renewed US demands for a full explanation of Wallenberg's disappearance. He said in a statement that "the world owes a tremendous and eternal debt to this great man, and the Soviet Union owes the world a full and complete accounting of his fate".

Extradition plea to Britain

Washington (Reuter) - The US is seeking to extradite from London and Geneva two businessmen charged with swindling investors out of \$3.6 million (£3.1 million) in a real estate fraud scheme, the Justice Department said.

Mr Alan Blair, a US citizen, was arrested in London and Mr Wilfried van Cauwenbergh, a Belgian, was held in Geneva.

Popular issue

Peking (Reuter) - Thousands queued this week to buy Shanghai's first share issue, the China News Service said. All 60,000 of the 50 yuan (£16) shares reserved for individuals were snapped up on the first day of issue.

Keeper killed

Diepholz, West Germany (Reuter) - A Bengal tiger killed its teenage keeper with a single bite through the neck and escaped from its cage here. A helicopter marksman shot it dead.

Workers' coup

La Paz (AP) - Bolivian workers demanding back-pay seized 29 factories here and held the executives hostage. The Board of Industry threatened to close all factories if the take-overs continue.

Crime purge

Jakarta (Reuter) - Six suspected criminals have been found dead in the central Java city of Jogjakarta in the past month, apparent victims of an official crackdown on crime, an Indonesian magazine said.

Priest gets life

Delhi (AP) - A priest of the Syrian Orthodox Church in southern India was sentenced to hard labour for life after being convicted of murdering a teenage girl during a rape attempt at his monastery.

Rich harvest

Guelph, Ontario (AFP) - A farm was sold here for Can\$250,000 (£170,000) by a Canadian millionaire to raise funds for Ethiopian famine victims.

Britons held

Eleven Britons were arrested in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on January 4 for allegedly drinking alcohol. Under Saudi law, they could face public flogging if found guilty.

Dali fire verdict

Madrid - The fire in which Salvador Dali was badly burnt at his castle home near Girona last August was accidental, an official report said.

Korea talks off

Tokyo (Reuter) - North Korea called off yesterday's trade talks with the South and said future discussions would depend on Seoul's attitude.

Aids toll

Bern (Reuter) - Aids has killed 26 people in Switzerland and the number of reported cases has doubled in a year.

Pole position

Bonn (Reuter) - Syria headed the list of diplomatic traffic offenders in West Germany's capital in 1984 and Polish diplomats were the most disciplined drivers, closely followed by the Papal Nuncio's chauffeur.

The Cyprus summit

Goodwill yields to wrangling

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

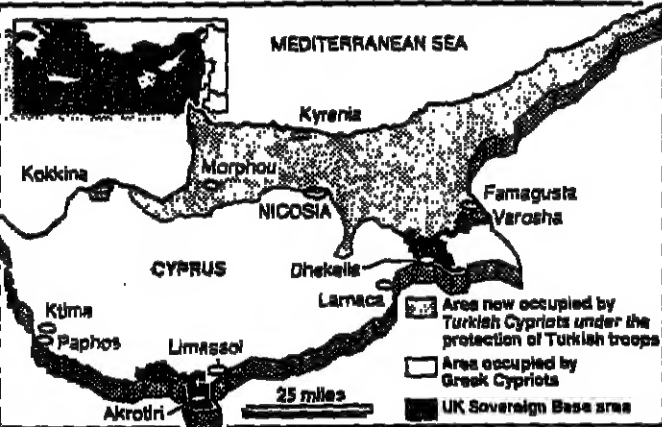
A summit of great expectations for a solution to the Cyprus problem took place at the United Nations yesterday as President Kyprianou of Cyprus and Mr Rauf Denktaş, the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, met for the first time since 1979.

The two sides entered face-to-face discussions in the presence of Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, under tremendous international pressure to produce a framework for a comprehensive settlement, with a timetable for implementing the phases leading to a federated republic of Cyprus.

But even as the meeting began with an outward show of goodwill and friendliness, disagreement about the very nature of the summit marred the atmosphere. The two sides continued to argue over whether the documentation provided by the Secretary-General at the end of three rounds of proximity talks was subject to negotiation.

Mr Denktaş has stated categorically that he would walk out of the summit if the Greek Cypriot side persisted in viewing what he called a draft agreement as open to renegotiation. Mr Andreas Christophides, the spokesman for the Cypriot Government, denied there was a draft and said all aspects of the Cyprus problem were still under consideration.

The proposals put forward by the Secretary-General provide for a skeletal framework and the establishment of working committees to implement general agreement in detail. The Greek Cypriots believe that the summit should conclude with very specific terms of reference and guidelines for the committees, which would deal with such questions as Turkish withdrawal, international guarantees, drawing up a constitution and a map delineating the boundaries of two autonomous regions. Thus they see the summit as something more than a signing ceremony.



The men Their tasks

President Spyros Kyprianou and Mr Rauf Denktaş, both British-educated lawyers, have been sparring partners for well over 20 years.

● **Mr Denktaş**, aged 60, brought up in a devout Muslim Turkish Cypriot family, studied law at Lincoln's Inn because his people needed lawyers to defend their rights. Deeply patriotic, he soon became absorbed in Turkish Cypriot politics, founded the Turkish resistance movement in Cyprus and after independence became the tough and undisputed leader of his community, in succession to Vice-President Fazil Kucuk.

● **Mr Kyprianou**, aged 52, became involved in Greek Cypriot politics while studying at Gray's Inn where he, too, became a barrister. As the representative of the Greek Cypriot ethnoarchy in London and Washington, he was President Makarios's unofficial representative and when Cyprus became independent in 1960 he was appointed Foreign Minister.

President Kyprianou, who was re-elected in 1983 with Communist support, had a major political rival in Mr Glafcos Clerides, head of the right-wing opposition Democratic Rally. But for the present negotiations he has secured the support of all the Greek Cypriot parties.

Between them the two leaders have to settle the future of the Mediterranean's third largest island and its population of 618,000 of whom 78 per cent are Greek-Cypriots and 18 per cent Turkish Cypriots. (The remainder are minorities such as Armenians and Maronites).

Cyprus came under British administration in 1878. It was formally annexed to Britain at the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 and became a Crown Colony in 1925.

In 1955 an armed campaign by the Greek Cypriot organization EOKA for union with Greece (Enosis) plunged the island into a state of emergency which ended in an agreement in 1959 between Britain, Greece, Turkey and the two communities that the island would become an independent republic, except for two Sovereign Base Areas still retained by Britain.

The constitution broke down in bloodshed in December 1963, after which many of the Turkish Cypriots took refuge in fortified enclaves. In 1974 a coup d'état by mainland Greek officers against President Makarios led to the Turkish invasion of the northern part of the island. In 1983 Mr Denktaş formally declared the occupied area an independent state, but was condemned by the UN and recognised only by Turkey.

Unifil awaits green light to move south

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

The Israeli forces in Lebanon will begin dismantling and removing their infrastructure from the Sidon area next week in preparation for the withdrawal deadline of February 18, an authoritative military source said yesterday.

Installations and equipment whose repatriation was not economically feasible have been offered for sale to the United Nations for use by Unifil forces but explicitly not for the Lebanese Army.

Urquhart, the special United Nations envoy, told Israeli leaders yesterday he was awaiting a green light from the Beirut Government to ask the Security Council to approve a new mandate for the UN force in Lebanon allowing it to advance from its present deployment south of the Litani river into the region the Israelis are to evacuate.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister.

The source said the Israelis were trying to come to some

arrangement whereby Unifil or the Lebanese Army will enter the area three or four days before the Israelis depart and deploy side by side.

"We don't want a situation that occurred in September 1983, in the Shouf, when we left at midnight and by 4 am the whole area was in flames".

Israel, he added, will leave an area of about 200 square miles, with a population of between 250,000 and 400,000. It will hold until the second phase some 900 square miles, with about 330,000 Shia Muslims, 70,000 Christians, up to 30,000 Druse and 40,000 Palestinians. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, on behalf of Mr David Kimche, its director-general, denied that he had said in Geneva that Israel would offer Lebanon to Lebanon who had been co-operative, as reported by The Times.

The statement said Mr Kimche had not been interviewed by The Times in Geneva but gave a Press conference at which he said he hoped no harm would befall those who had co-operated. Leading article, page 11

UN's check on PoWs

Baghdad (Reuter) - A United Nations team left for Tehran yesterday after investigating the treatment of Iranian prisoners of war in Iraq, the official Iraqi news agency said.

The three-man mission, which arrived in Baghdad a week ago, will spend six days in Iraq looking into conditions for Iraqi prisoners there before reporting to the UN Secretary-General.

General Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar.

The team was formed in November after an incident in an Iranian camp in which several Iraqi prisoners died.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister, Mr Hussein Pourkazem Ardebili said in Tehran on Tuesday that Iran would do everything to help the mission in its work.

Egyptians and Greeks iron out old problems

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece and Egypt, at least at Government level, continue not to see eye to eye politically, but their bilateral relations seem to have improved during President Mubarak's brief state visit to Athens which ended yesterday.

A Greek Government spokesman announced that problems that had bogged down bilateral relations for two decades had now been resolved. These concerned the rights and insurance benefits of Greeks and Egyptians working in each others' country, as well as the liquidation of Egyptian property in northern Greece.

Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, who had talks and lunch with the Egyptian President yesterday, even spoke of "opening a new chapter" in the relations between the two countries.

He also thanked Mr Mubarak for giving him "a new perspective" on the problems of the Middle East.

Gale force winds at Athens airport last night compelled the Egyptian President to postpone his flight to Cairo until today, posing an unexpected security problem.

Jamaica clears up riot debris

Kingston (AP, NYT)

Using armoured personnel carriers and heavy road equipment, security forces paralysed the streets of the Jamaican capital yesterday, removing roadblocks set up by demonstrators during two days of protest over fuel price rises.

Police said four people had been killed and 18 injured. Most main streets in the capital have now been cleared of barricades. Jamprass, the Government news agency, reported that Kingston was returning to normal with some schools reopened and public transport expected to be restored.

Many people drove to work for the first time in three days, risking flat tyres from broken bottles, rocks and debris remaining in the streets.

The demonstrations resulted from Monday's announcement of a 20 per cent increase in fuel prices. The latest in a three-year series of austerity measures instituted by the Prime Minister, Mr Edward Seaga.

Hotels and airlines reported that schedules were returning to normal, and denied reports that tourists were fleeing the country. An estimated 12,000 tourists arrived on Tuesday and Wednesday. Only 11 trips had been cancelled, government



Mr Seaga: Country facing incidents of sabotage

sources said, although they conceded that an extra flight had been laid on for visitors unable to leave the island earlier in the week.

Mr Seaga told reporters that several incidents of sabotage made it necessary to end what he had tolerated earlier as peaceful demonstrations. He said sugar cane fields outside Kingston had been set ablaze and security forces had uncovered plans for blowing up a key bridge and highway overpass.

Opponents of the Government have called on Mr Seaga to resign and hold new elections.

The former Prime Minister, Mr Michael Manley, leader of the socialist People's National Party, in a statement virtually acknowledging his party's participation in the demonstrations, said the protesters had "sent a message to the Government loudly and clearly that they will no longer sit by and allow an arrogant and corrupt Government to inflict unending economic miseries".

● **LONDON:** Jon Moss, a member of the pop group Culture Club, talked yesterday of his "frightening ordeal" when he became caught up in the troubles in Jamaica.

He said he was forced to run the gauntlet past machete-wielding villagers after they stopped his taxi. He and Boy George, the Culture Club singer, were forced to call off a trip to visit Bob Marley's widow, Rita, in Kingston because all roads were blocked.

The Culture Club drummer had gone to Jamaica for a week's holiday to join Boy George and the pop star Marilyn.

Speaking on his return at Heathrow, Moss said he ran into a roadblock on the northside of the island. "There was a group of villagers wielding machetes who wouldn't let us through. I had to get out of the car and move through them."

Black America rides the obstacles

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Black America is riding a wave of hope and encouragement despite President Reagan's "deplorable policies", according to a respected pressure group. It notes in its annual report that Mr Reagan captured only one black vote out of every nine last November.

Despite the message of optimism, the group's "State of America" report concludes that the Reagan Administration's record on civil rights would divide the US into a "prosperous majority and an impoverished minority".

Mr John Jacob, president of the league, says: "On balance, I would suggest that the strongest message coming out of black America in 1984 was that it became increasingly aware of its own strengths and increasingly willing to act indepen-

dently to achieve what it considers its own best interests."

Mr Jacob says that despite the burgeoning US economy, black unemployment is about 16 per cent. He says evidence of hope for blacks included the elevation of Mr William French Clayton, a black Congressman from Philadelphia, to head the House budget committee.

The report notes: "For the first time, a black political leader will be at the centre of the negotiations over the budget."

The Rev Jesse Jackson's respectable run for presidency was another sign. There had been a "revival of the interracial, nonpartisan movement for racial justice, as evidenced by black and white cooperation to help famine victims in Ethiopia and to oppose apartheid in South Africa."

The report says 53 per cent of black families "remain intact, married couples". Most of the other families are headed by women. It cites Mr Jackson's presidential campaign as the most encouraging event in 1984. It had created a "flurry of political involvement" at the local level, particularly among young black voters.

The anti-apartheid demonstrations against South Africa had "brought religious and lay leaders together with civil rights organizations and conservative congressmen".

Among steps recommended in the report are presidential support for a civil rights Bill now before Congress, reappraisal of US policy towards South Africa, a cooling of political statements that blacks say are polarizing the races, and a moratorium on budget cuts in programmes that help the poor.

Kohl proposes new treaty to make sure EEC reforms work

As a curtain-raiser to today's meeting in Bonn between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the German leader spoke to MICHAEL BINYON, Bonn Correspondent of *The Times*.

Question: What is the present state of Anglo-German relations, and how would you characterize the British as European partners? Do you think that relations with Great Britain can ever be as close as those with France?

Answer: Tomorrow the two heads of government of our two countries will meet for the sixteenth time for summit consultations. Among the important questions on the agenda is the further development of the European Community. Europe needs Great Britain and - allow me to say this - Britain also needs Europe. This is not an emotional statement, but reflects the balance of our common interests. In our view it will therefore not be possible to move Europe forward without Great Britain playing a substantial political role.

Anglo-German relations are marked by a mature and solid friendship.

Britain together with the United States is one of our most important and reliable Alliance partners in ensuring freedom and peace. The contributions which the British armed forces make to the stability of the forward defence of Western Europe are of substantial importance. The British Army of the Rhine merits my special tribute. This is also true of the British forces in Berlin. Without a harmonious Anglo-German relationship Europe would be a torso.

Security cooperation between the Federal Republic and Great Britain, marked by constant intensification and improvement and is of great value in our security policies.

Of course the framework of our cooperation with Great Britain is different from that

with France. The aim however remains the same: to strengthen the security of Free Europe.

You have said that 1985 should be a year for Europe. Could you outline what concrete steps you would like the Community to take to achieve greater integration?

The European Community is of vital importance to all of us. It has proved itself in critical phases in the past. We must however admit that we have often had fears for its cohesion, indeed for its continued existence. When the Community is enlarged to 12 with the addition of Spain and Portugal, this will be an added test of the Community's ability to act and take decisions. We must therefore strive for progress in the field of its institutions.

The European Council in Fontainebleau set up a committee which among other things is to put forward proposals for institutional reform. But there is little sense in just striving for agreement on declarations of intent to which no one feels himself seriously bound later on. If we do not want just paper reforms, then the necessary agreements must be put on a solid, binding basis. For this reason we should seriously consider negotiating a new treaty which does justice to the necessary institutional and political development of the Community.

The Community also needs to make up lost ground many other fields which are dealt with by the Treaty of Rome but which need completing and deepening. I am thinking for example of the necessity to create a genuine internal market. We must also encourage the convergence of our national economies. We should also

make greater use of the opportunities for industrial cooperation than in the past.

We must seek ways and means of increasing the role of Europe in foreign and security policy. It is certainly useful if European heads of state and government are able to agree on joint resolutions on topical foreign policy questions. Our joint position in multilateral bodies has meanwhile become established practice.

There is new movement in East-West relations. It is worth paying attention to common European interests, especially with regard to the Soviet Union, which will not cease to strive to divide us from each other and at the same time to play off the Americans and the Europeans against each other. These are questions of vital importance. We must finally be clear in our minds whether we want a Europe with its own political profile or a Europe which only has an economic identity.

What role do you see the Federal Republic playing in East-West relations?

The Federal Republic of Germany is in the middle of Europe and for historical reasons bears a heavy responsibility for peace and stability in East-West relations. The same is true for the GDR (German Democratic Republic). The German people live on the dividing line between East and West. It is therefore inevitably interested in a favourable East-West climate. Peace must emanate from German soil.

We fully support the new arms control negotiations between the two world powers that have now been set in motion in Geneva. We are quite confident that it will be possible in the course of these difficult and certainly protracted negotiations to create a world with fewer weapons.

We believe that with these negotiations between the USA and the Soviet Union new impetus will be given for the multilateral arms control negotiations on MBFR (Mutual



Balanced Force Reductions) in Vienna, on chemical weapons in Geneva and on security and confidence-building measures and disarmament in Stockholm, and that they will usher in a new phase of dialogue, understanding and cooperation between East and West.

The European allies on both sides can, through dialogue each with the other can have an influence on the political framework for the negotiations between the big powers. Europe's interests must be

defended and asserted. The Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which in 1985 will be 10 years old, points to concrete opportunities which it is important to use to the full.

The Federal Republic of Germany has sought cooperation with all Warsaw Pact states even in periods of difficulty in East-West relations. These relations help stability and peace. They were not and are not intended to exclude anyone.

What is your attitude to the recent decision by the British Government to celebrate May 8 after all?

I am certain that our friends who 40 years ago were our opponents in battle know that this day is a very special day for the Germans. It is of course not a day to celebrate, we are speaking of commemoration, and we will hold an hour of remembrance in the Bundestag. In the evening not the state but the Catholic and Protestant churches in Germany will conduct an ecumenical service in Cologne Cathedral.

We want to commemorate this day as the liberation from National Socialism. Speaking as party chairman, we are also celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the CDU in the summer.

I am going to speak on April 21, the day of the liberation of the Bergen Belsen concentration camp by British troops, at the invitation of the Central Jewish Council. We will therefore remember the victims of National Socialism, the men and women in the concentration camps, prisons and places of execution. We will remember the millions who fell as soldiers, the many millions also of refugees and expelled who died in this frightful time and those who were killed in their own homes by bombs - men, women and children. I experienced that myself in my home town from when I was five to 12. The important thing for us is that on this day we do not only look back but also forwards.

It will not be possible to move Europe forwards without Great Britain playing a substantial political role.

I think one should treat this suffering and these terrible times not with great speeches but with reflection and self-analysis and also in prayer. I also believe it important to say to young people that this is how it was, it must never happen again. But we have done

something for the future, the enemies of yesterday have become the friends of today, and Britain stands out in the front row among them.

What is your opinion of Britain's refusal to join the so-called "30 per cent club" of countries pledging to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions? We must discuss the situation with each other, as it is completely different in various countries. You hardly have any dying forests or none at all. We have areas - most British people at least have heard of the Black Forest where we face a complex catastrophe - and we must find a sensible middle line between ecology and economy. But the death of the woods is of course a special thing for us. What the sea represents for the British, the woods do for the Germans. For this reason we have to find solutions which satisfy both of us.

In the field of domestic politics, what do you see as the outlook for the coalition in view of the electoral losses of the FDP?

I am optimistic that the forthcoming elections, for the coalition of the centre, of the CDU/CSU and FDP, can show important success. The rise in unemployment has been halted, a change in direction is noticeable in the labour market; protection of the environment is making progress, and we will introduce low pollution cars equipped with catalytic converters. The economy is growing further. For the first time in a decade in 1984 the increase in GNP was above the inflation rate. The consolidation of the budget is making palpable progress. The social security network has been reinforced. To this we must add even in a difficult phase in world affairs talks and contacts with the GDR were not broken off - last year alone about 40,000 of our compatriots were able to leave the GDR.

I am sure that our citizens appreciate these results of steadfast policies.

Gandhi to clamp down on defections

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, yesterday took the first steps towards redeeming some of its election pledges, in particular the promise to clean up political corruption.

President Zail Singh, in a speech to a joint meeting of the Houses of Parliament - the equivalent of the Queen's speech in the British Parliament - announced that the Government would bring forward an anti-defection bill to prevent floor-crossing by MPs or state legislature members.

Although details were not out of the bill presumably would impel a defector to submit to a by-election under his new colours, the aim being to make it fruitless for someone trying to purchase his loyalty by cash or preferment. It will end perambulation of politicians in and out of political parties, which a few years ago caused a good deal of popular disillusion and which enabled a president's government of Mr Gandhi's mother to topple the state

governments of Jammu and Kashmir and of Andhra Pradesh last year.

The President also promised new measures to help preserve and clean up the environment. He spoke of a new forest policy and new development boards for waste lands to give a fresh impetus to afforestation "as a people's movement".

MPs applauded by rapping their desks when the President spoke of establishing a central authority to stop pollution of the River Ganges.

"The Ganga is no ordinary river," he said, "with it are bound long memories of our past, our songs and poetry and our search for truth. A cleaner Ganga is thus a matter of the deepest satisfaction for our people."

The President arrived at the Parliament building in an open landau sheltered under a red and gold umbrella, a symbol of temporal authority. He was accompanied by a president's escort of Lancers - direct descendants of the Bengal Lancers of old.

was welcomed with a fanfare of trumpets. Wearing a white turban and charcoal-grey achkan, and a high-necked frock coat, with a red rose in a button hole, he was led to a balcony dais before a canopied chair. The Prime Minister, who followed him in procession, appeared a trifle lost and had to be directed to his seat in the front row of the stalls.

President Zail Singh drew attention to a number of political and economic successes by the Government, in particular the strengthening of India's foreign exchange reserves.

He also welcomed the resumed Geneva arms talks and announced that the heads of government of six non-aligned nations - Argentina, Greece, Mexico, Sweden, Tanzania and India - would meet in Delhi in the next few days to consider what further action the Non-aligned Movement could take towards nuclear peace.

The President's speech, in deliberate Hindi which was repeated in English by Mr

Ramaswami Venkataraman, the Vice-President, was frequently applauded. The heaviest came when he declared that the Government will accord high priority to the social, economic and cultural development of women.

He said an important step in this direction will be the provision of free secondary education for girls. At present if girls want the equivalent of 'O' or 'A' levels they have to go to fee-paying schools.

CHANDIGARH: Police yesterday held five people for questioning over Wednesday's attempt to assassinate Jathedar Giani Kirpal Singh, head priest of the highest Sikh religious order in Punjab state, the Press Trust of India said (Reuters reports).

Authoritative sources in this state capital said at least two of those held for questioning were Sikhs aged 23 and 24. A motorcycle and two pistols believed to have been used in the attack had also been seized by security forces, they said.

Japan sweet poisoners strike again

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japan's sweet poisoners are in action again after a new year holiday break.

In the first poison incident of the year a packet of sweets laced with sodium cyanide was found outside the Osaka office of Japan's largest-circulation morning newspaper, *Yomiuri Shimbun*.

A note left with the sweets said the package was a "New Year gift" to the Morinaga Confectionery Company which has been a principle target of the extortionist group signing itself "The Man with Twenty-one Faces".

The poisoned sweets were in one of the special 1,000 yen packets that the firm has been selling direct to the public to prevent the poisoners tampering with their products on supermarket shelves.

In letters to *Yomiuri Shimbun* and other newspapers, the gang said that they would stop bullying food companies if they can collect 1.3 billion yen from them.

Earlier this month the gang threatened another big sweet and cake manufacturer, the Fujiya Company. Since the weekend the police have been deployed at supermarkets and elsewhere to try to discourage the gang, and have issued a sketch of one of the men they want to interview. In the latest letter the gang commented: "None of us is as ugly as this man. We are all handsome men."

Mitterrand expected to face protests in New Caledonia

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Hostile demonstrations are expected to greet President Mitterrand when he arrives in the troubled French overseas territory of New Caledonia in the South Pacific tomorrow for a visit of less than 24 hours. M. Mitterrand was due to leave Paris last night.

Soon after the President's surprise announcement of his visit on television on Wednesday night, anonymous tracts began circulating in Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia, calling on the *Caldos* the white settlers of French origin, to demonstrate "with dignity" in protest against M. Mitterrand's apparent support for the plan proposed by M. Edgard Pisani, France's High Commissioner, for the islands to name independence linked with continued close association with France.

"It revolts me that he should come here. We can expect nothing from him," a *Caldos* shopkeeper said. "If he is coming with preconceived ideas, it is not worth his making the journey," a white teacher added. A young immigrant from the French South Pacific island of Wallis commented: "He is coming to accelerate the process of independence which we do not want."

However, the leaders of the *Rassemblement pour la Calédonie* dans la République, the party representing a majority of the *Caldos*, were more positive about the visit. "It shows the interest the President has for the Caledonian prob-



M. Pisani: Accused by Kanak leader.

lem," M. Dick Ukeiwe, President of the newly-elected semi-autonomous Government of the islands and himself a Kanak but fiercely anti-independence, said.

"I dare to hope that he will be able to understand the majority of the Caledonians, their inspirations, and their desire to remain French. Those who plan to take part in the demonstration are not our supporters because hostile demonstrations are not the best way to reach a solution."

M. Roger Laroque, the white Mayor of Noumea, who is normally considered a hardliner among the anti-independents, said he thought M. Mitterrand's visit "an excellent thing".

The Kanak separatists were more reserved in their reaction. "This visit will change nothing. We are already on the path to independence," a spokesman for the National Socialist Kanak Liberation Front (FLNKS) said, adding: "At least the President

will be able to see with his own eyes the reality of the colonialist exploitation."

M. Jean-Marie Tjibaou, leader of the FLNKS, so far had declined to make any comment either on the visit, or on his talks yesterday with M. Pisani, whom M. Tjibaou had earlier accused of having "blood on his hands" after what he believed to be the deliberate murder by the police of two Kanak separatist leaders on Friday.

M. Ukeiwe also had talks with M. Pisani yesterday. It was the first time that either M. Tjibaou or M. Ukeiwe had met M. Pisani since the publication of M. Pisani's plans for the islands on January 7 or the violent events of the past weekend.

The police organized a press visit to the scene of the shooting of the two Kanak separatists, Eloi Machoro and Marcel Nonnaro, yesterday, in an attempt to convince journalists of their version of the events, which differs substantially from that of the Kanak separatists. The police maintain that the deaths were accidental.

Having been given orders only to "neutralize" the separatists, police sharpshooters would normally have aimed for the legs, the police said. Machoro's legs were shielded by a bank, while Nonnaro's were hidden behind a car. So they aimed instead for the shoulder. "But Machoro moved and the bullet hit his chest, while in Nonnaro's case the bullet was accidentally deflected off a bone in his shoulder, wounding him fatally."

Tape clue to Taiwan critic's death

Taipei (Reuters, AFP) - Taiwanese investigators are trying to find a tape recording which may contain information about the murder of a Taiwan critic in California last year, official sources said.

The tape could throw light on the killing on October 15 of Mr Henry Liu, a Chinese-American writer and a critic of the Taiwan government.

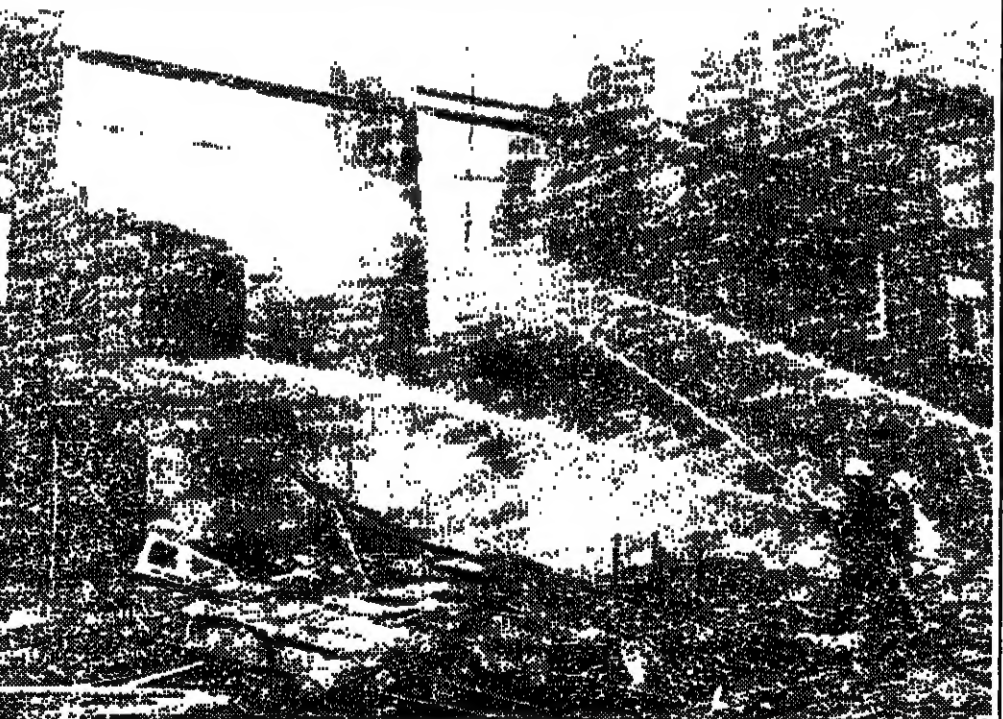
Taiwan has admitted that its intelligence agents were involved in the killing, sparking the biggest political scandal here in a decade.

The sources said the tape was recorded by Mr Chen Chi-ii, a leading Taiwanese underworld figure named by US authorities as one of Mr Liu's killers.

They said the tape was believed to contain details of Mr Chen's activities before and after the murder. Three senior intelligence officials have been arrested here in connection with the affair.

The sources said Colonel Chen Fu-men, a deputy department head in the Military Intelligence Bureau and one of those arrested, told investigators that at least two more senior officials knew of the plot.

Three officers of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation are to visit Taiwan



Second Brussels gas blast

Firemen hosing down the wreckage of four houses ripped apart by a series of gas explosions in Brussels early yesterday. Two women and a man were killed and nine injured in the explosions, the second gas blast in Brussels in two days caused by freezing weather (Reuters reports).

Police said one body pulled from the wreckage was too badly burnt to be identified, although neighbours said it was that of an elderly woman. There was little hope of finding the two missing people alive.

About 30 people were evacuated from houses in the area, because further gas leaks threatened to cause more explosions.

Eyewitnesses said the first explosion at 6.16 am destroyed one house and set off another blast seconds later that blew the top two storeys off an adjoining building. A third explosion half an hour later destroyed a house on the other side of the road.

In St Etienne, France, a gas pipeline exploded in icy weather, sending flames 600ft into the air, but no one was injured.

Chinese intruders 'wiped out'

Bangkok (AFP, AP, Reuters) - Vietnam said yesterday its forces had "wiped out" hundreds of Chinese soldiers allegedly intruding across the Sino-Vietnamese border in the past week.

Radio Hanoi said Chinese troops had fired tens of thousands of shells from a hilltop they occupied in the northernmost Vietnamese province causing several civilian casualties and considerable material damages.

In Peking the New China news agency reported fresh border incidents, saying that Vietnamese troops fired on Chinese positions on Wednesday and that Chinese forces

killed or wounded "a number" of Vietnamese "invaders" in the Laoshan area.

In Bangkok yesterday, Thailand criticized the United States for not providing aid to the Cambodian resistance coalition that has been battered in recent weeks by a powerful Vietnamese offensive along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Foreign ministry officials said Thailand - regarded as a front-line pro-western state facing a hostile Indochina - was unhappy with Washington's reluctance as well as its failure to set forth "clear-cut policy on South-East Asian affairs."

Fighting has dropped off in the border area, between the

Vietnamese and guerrillas, but appears to have intensified elsewhere. Thai military sources said the Khmer Rouge had stepped up its attacks in Battambang.

About 500 Khmer Rouge troops of the 474th Division burnt bridges and attacked Vietnamese bases in the areas of Sisophon and Mongkol Borei, along the highway.

Meanwhile, Laotian national radio monitored in Bangkok said that the foreign ministers of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were meeting in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday to discuss Southeast Asian affairs and cooperation between their countries.

Resignation over Austrian clash violence blocked

Vienna - The Lower Austrian Government yesterday refused to accept the resignation of Dr Emil Schuller, the senior civil servant responsible for policing the controversial Hainburg power station site (Richard Bassett writes).

Dr Schuller resigned earlier this week, accusing the Government of not supporting the police during violent clashes with demonstrators on December 19. Dr Siegfried Ledwig, Lower Austrian Governor, said the resignation would not be accepted until a review of police responsibility in the Austrian provinces has been carried out.

Sudan to hang man, 76

Khartoum (Reuters) - The 76-year-old leader of the banned Republican Brothers Party in Sudan, Mahmoud Muhammad Taha, and four of his followers are due to be hanged today for opposing Islamic law, the Sudan News Agency reported.

It said President Jaafar Nimeiri yesterday approved the death sentences imposed by a criminal court last week. The five were convicted of distributing pamphlets against implementing Islamic law and of anti-Government incitement.

Independent TV given go-ahead in France

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

The situation was threatening to get out of hand. By announcing his decision to "free" television, M. Mitterrand has succeeded in preventing what threatened to be an Opposition campaign to demand the lifting of the Government's "stranglehold" over television. The Opposition parties conveniently ignored the fact that when they were in power they had jealously guarded the state's monopoly over both radio and television.

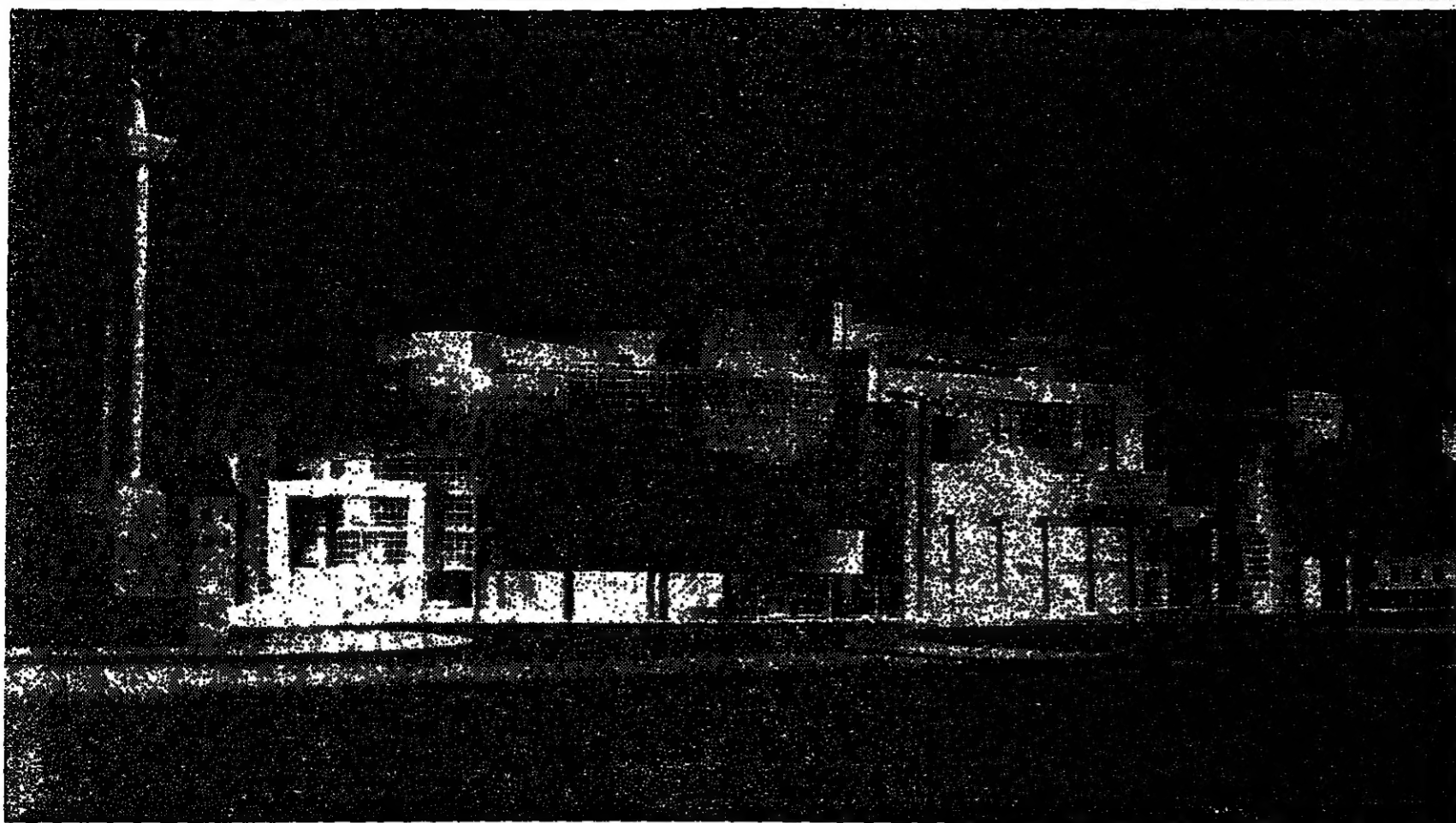
Independent radio was legalized by the Socialist Government in 1982, and there are now some 300 local and regional stations operating in France. However, M. Mitterrand said on Wednesday that it would be physically impossible, even if it were desirable (which he clearly believed it was not), for similar numbers of independent television channels to broadcast simultaneously.

He said he believed there might be room for around 80 local and regional independent channels, but gave no figure for the possible number of national independent channels.

M. Robert Hersant, right wing owner of *Le Figaro* and France's most powerful press magnate, whose empire the Government unsuccessfully tried to dismantle last year through its Press Monopolies Bill, announced earlier this week his ambitious plan to set up a private television company, targeted on a European as well as a national French audience.

He has thus given in to the mounting pressure from the public and would-be private television companies who have been battering at the Government's door. More than 60 applications to set up private companies have already been received in anticipation of the Government's go-ahead, while two "pirate" television channels have actually begun broadcast, albeit very intermittently.

SPECTRUM



A controversial new opera house (model above) is being built in Paris by President Mitterrand's socialist government to celebrate the bicentenary of the French Revolution. Jane Withers and Anthony Fawcett report

The people's opera

In the Place de la Bastille, Paris, a ragged crowd of locals has gathered at the entrance to the old railway station to watch the dramatic spectacle of its dismemberment. Twenty feet up in the air the roof dangles from the jaws of a crane like a sheet of flimsy card.

Demolition has just begun to clear the way for the grand new Opera de la Bastille, a £200 million project initiated by President Mitterrand to mark the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution in 1989.

In France architecture is serious politics. The time-honoured tradition of political leaders erecting architectural monuments as tangible memorials to their ambitions is unabated. In recent years the pace has quickened and the fabric of Paris has become the arena for an intense power struggle with politicians warring grand architectural schemes as if they are playing monopoly.

After the wild, popular success of Pompidou's Centre Culturel everyone discovered the value of building vast pleasure domes. Now the leading protagonists are Jacques Chirac, Mayor of Paris and leader of the opposition, and of course, President Mitterrand.

In spring last year Chirac inaugurated his £100 million Palais Omnisports de Bercy, a vast stadium for sports and music, and it was he who finally won the notorious "affaire des Halles", erecting his flash amusement arcade-style shopping centre on the site of the old market.

Mitterrand's plans leave no doubt that the imprint of socialism on Paris will be formidable. A central platform of his campaign was to restore Paris's claim to be the capital of culture and to "democratise" that culture so it is accessible to everyone.

The government's formula is to raise a series of lavish cultural edifices, some socialist-initiated and some inherited. These include a museum of the 19th century in the Gare d'Orsay, Tête d'Elise, an extension to the Louvre, La Villette - a vast new open air cultural centre that will be the largest park in Paris since Haussmann mapped out the Bois de Boulogne - and of course, the Opera de la Bastille, commonly called the *Opéra Populaire*.

All was to culminate in a World Fair that Mitterrand planned for 1989 in a fanfare of socialist glory. But since Chirac spiked the World Fair with accusations of gross financial extravagance it is left to the Opera to mark the bicentenary for the socialists. The pedigree is formidable. The Eiffel Tower, no less, marked the centenary.

The Opera's symbolic site is the Socialist's major coup. On the night of Mitterrand's election 3,000 people

gathered to celebrate at the Bastille.

It might seem incongruous that an opera house should be chosen to symbolize socialism. For all the way back to the time of the Bastille opera has been as much a symbol of the *ancien régime* as the fortress itself. But at the heart of Mitterrand's commitment is the belief that if opera is made accessible the masses will flock to it.

The term *Opéra Populaire*, however, refers only to the audience. There will be little concession to popular taste. Mitterrand's culture is serious stuff. Opera, indeed, is undergoing something of a renewal. In Paris last winter there was a choice of five film versions of Carmen.

In keeping with the grandeur of his gesture Mitterrand launched an open international competition to see who would design his Opera. It was won by 37-year-old Canadian architect Carlos Ott who has gathered together a team of 80 French and Canadian experts to realize the project and has set up office down the road from the site.

Born in Uruguay, Ott began his architectural studies in Montevideo and completed them on a scholarship to the U.S. In 1974 he was invited to join a Canadian team working on the new Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.

"I soon realized that many of the decisions were not made by the architect at his little drafting table but by the developers. I thought it essential to understand that side of building, the client's side. I joined a Canadian

company which was developing downtown Dallas, Texas.

"It became frustrating to direct architects without doing my own architecture so, in the evenings and at weekends, in airport lounges and hotels, I worked on the competition on my own. I didn't think I had a chance but I am what you call a workaholic."

"I decided I preferred designing to controlling architects and sites, so I quit and joined a big architectural firm, the second largest in Canada. One month later I heard I was one of the three finalists chosen by President Mitterrand."

Ott's short career emphasises his pragmatic approach to architecture. His experience on both sides of the fence proved invaluable for interpreting Mitterrand's ambitions.

The brief called for a complex programme to be slotted on to an awkward site divided by roads into three irregular chunks. Ott's design was widely voted the most "buildable" and least destructive to the neighbourhood.

Even Chirac agreed if there must be an *Opéra Populaire* Ott's design was the best - a rare accord between city and state - and gave the green light to clear the site.

Place de la Bastille is an irregular star shape on the frontier between the aristocratic Marais district and the working eastern quarter characterized by centuries of spontaneous urban growth. Haussmann neatened up the west side to focus on the Colonne de

Juillet but the rest escaped his treatment.

Some of the competition entries tried to redress the balance, regularizing the site of the opera in line with Haussmann's development. Others resorted to historical pastiche to blend opera with site. Ott, by contrast, kept to the existing road plan and designed an assertively-contemporary building to integrate with the existing urban fabric.

"I don't want to shift the focus of the Place to the Opera but to respect its odd configuration. Unlike the old Operas my building cannot have a monumental facade. It almost has to hide behind the existing buildings."

It relates in much more subtle ways than colour or materials, arches or mansard roofs. In the Piazza Navona in Rome there are Renaissance and Baroque facades and rococo and neo-classical facades but the whole piazza has a uniformity. It is more difficult to do it - this way but much more interesting."

Ott's design a vast glass wall patterned by the zigzag of the internal stairway shields a cluster of volumes articulating the components of the opera in the manner of the Bauhaus doctrine that form follows function.

In view of the myriad possibilities for flaunting historical symbolism dreamed up by other contestants (Rocco S. K. Yin, one of the finalists, proposed, for example, a neon guillotine and three columns carrying the motto of the French Revolution in all the languages of the world) Ott's restraint is admirable. Three spare arches focussed on the Colonne de Juillet are about the only gratuitous elements.

"The building has to encourage people to come to the opera. I can't determine the price of a ticket but I can make opera accessible to more people by creating an open, inviting building that people can pass through when they go from a cafe to the metro and watch a rehearsal on a monitor or scenery being built."

"La Scala, Bayreuth or Covent Garden have already given us the psychological ambience of watching an opera. I believe an architect today must do a new hall, one that brings a new dimension. This Opera will be like a musical instrument with which new composers and singers can innovate as well as allowing the classical repertoire to be performed in the way it was conceived."

"I have to take the challenge of the future, to build an Opera for the next century."

OPERA WITH EVERYTHING

The opera will have a main auditorium seating 2,700, a modular theatre seating 1,500 and a full-size rehearsal hall. The flexible rotation of performances is essential to the economics of the Opera.

It is hoped that ticket prices at the new opera will be half that at the Palais Garnier. This will be achieved by the frequency of performances rather than the quantity of seats offered. There will be one performance every day of the year in each auditorium and a choice of three different productions every week.

The main auditorium is designed for the classical repertoire and has traditional acoustics. The modular theatre is much more flexible and will house experimental work and operas that require a small audience. It will have both traditional acoustics and electro-acoustics and a choice of three different wall surfaces with different levels of absorption.

The Opera Populaire will be open all day with restaurants, cafes and videotheques for watching films of operas. On the adjacent site of the Gare d'Orsay will be an open air auditorium.



Architect Carlos Ott

Unravelling the old mysteries of heaven and hell in a day

Anyone spending the whole of tomorrow at the National Cottesloe Theatre can justly claim to have completed a marathon mystery tour. For it is here, in an extraordinarily revamped auditorium, resembling a cross between a mercer's hall and the market square of a medieval town, that a trilogy of Bible-based dramas will be performed before or - rather among, a substantially ignorant audience.

The day is a culmination of eight years' work by director Bill Bryden, his Cottesloe Company, and the Newcastle poet Tony Harrison. Since 1977 they have been working on a largely neglected and anonymous body of dramatic work which we call the Mysteries.

Tomorrow is the first occasion on which the three resulting productions, *The Nativity*, *The Passion* and *Doomsday* can be seen on the trot. Seven intense hours of the sacred and the secular.

Before examining the history of the company and the evolution of the epic, it would be as well to solve the first pressing mystery of the original plays. The word itself derives from the Latin *mysterium*, meaning a craft or trade. And that is precisely what these dramas are - trade plays staged peripatetically on wagons by the various guilds of the town. In the Middle Ages, prosperity was the cue for a town to acquire a cycle of its own, much as in later centuries, it might have acquired a Lord Mayor or, indeed a soccer team.

Each of the playlets was put on by a particular trade or company, after which it was dubbed the fishers' or glovers' or cutlers' pageant.

Four of the cycles survive - York, Chester, Coventry and Wakefield (or Towneley) - and it was not until 1953 that they emerged from a 500-year dark age of neglect.

The rationale of these early plays is important, for it is largely the same as that which informs Bryden's approach today. "We've tried to create, in a modern world, the sort of basis on which those original performances occurred," he says.

"In those days there may well have been a figure who approximated to a producer, the man who went round and got these guilds together. That, for present purposes, is me. They took their plays around the town on wagons, within our town, the Cottesloe, the town goes around the wagons."

Hell may no longer be the burning reality it was for our forefathers and this world no longer the physical threshold from which you ascend or descend when your allocation of days expires. To that extent the force of the cautionary rants is diminished.

None the less, as Bryden says, "these plays are not really about what your religion is. They're about the faith of common people, and their days of celebration. They make sense today, at a time when the church is virtually nowhere - because they help us to remember our faith and our struggle for that faith, whether it is in our family, our home town, our union."

During rehearsals, with the three tiers of the Cottesloe empty and the floor space dotted with little groups of actors in their appointed "stations", it is hard to see how the place can transform itself into a market square with the mere addition of an audience, none of whom knows the cues.

Up above, things are even more bizarre. An assortment of domestic utensils hangs by threads from the rafters: cheese graters, colanders, garden dustbins, each one containing a tiny flickering light and together



Top, Karl Johnson as Jesus and, above, designer William Dudley has a word with John Canfield, assistant director

taking on the look of a pierced metalwork screen. On the front of the balconies are yet more emblems of craft and labour, all overarching at the top of the theatre by the great emblazonry of trade union banners.

Designer William Dudley explains: "Our idea has been to follow that pragmatic quality which would have been exercised in the original performances - to style this story of the Bible around what's available. It's a myth that there was no machinery being used then. Now, as then, we're using these things as tools which after a while become invisible, in the sense of being accepted."

Perhaps the most significant change in the company since its inception is to be found in the role of Tony Harrison. In 1977 he was doing, in his words, "a humble plumbing job" on the York Mysteries. He was and remains, a poet much opposed to difficulty in modern writing and the job of re-fitting a popular but now obscure tradition for the modern ear was just right for this Leeds-born linguist and classicist.

But now, after all the immersion, the plumber has become an architect and *Doomsday* is essentially the original work of a thoroughly modern poet in confident touch with the idiom of his source material. If the medieval guilds had professional writers, like the so-called Wakefield Master and York Realist, then Harrison is the nearest thing one could have to a latterday counterpart.

Harrison, like Bryden and the musical director John Tams, is an unashamed vulgarian, a man who clearly remembers his own childhood anger at not being allowed to read poetry in his own Yorkshire accent, deepened inferior to Received Southern Pronunciation.

You need spend no more than five minutes at the Cottesloe, listening to the short northern vowels of God and his lad and to the crowd-clearing delivery of the alliterations, to sense that Harrison is taking spectacular revenge on his teachers.

Alan Franks

"I wish I knew how he did it," Chapter Seven When they had gone, the dentist carefully took the novel down from the ceiling. "It's a funny thing, Savage, but even the best agents never think of looking above their heads. Now, tell me what you think of this bit of Iris Murdoch. The next day dawned fine, and the seagulls reappeared, over the bay."

"Looking down the east list we find Jim Carter (Mark the Shepherd and Fourth Soldier), an accomplished juggler and tightrope walker; Phil Langham

"Funny place for a full stop," "Exactly," said the dentist, removing the full stop with his tweezers. "Put it there just in time. But our arrangement is getting just a bit risky. Tell you what I'm going to do, Mr Savage. I'm going to put you in touch with a good chiropodist."

(Coming soon: Toeing the Line - and Lining the Toes! A New Spy Thriller.)

moreover... Miles Kingston

The dotty life of a spy

Chapter Three. "Come for another check-up, Mr Savage. That's the spirit," said the dentist. "And how was your trip to Yugoslavia?"

"Fine. But I've got this little twinge in upper left four."

"Upper left four? Say no more," said the dentist, twinkling down at him. As he lay there, Savage gazed up at the bare ceiling and wished, not for the first time, that dentists could put something amusing up there to distract the sufferers.

A novel, perhaps, on an electronic screen.

"Got it," said the dentist, holding up the microdot. "You've also got a little decay in that tooth. Shall I deal with it?"

"OK," said Savage. "But I wish you'd provide something to read up there..."

Chapter Four "I've been running Savage through the computer, sir," said Jones, "and I've found something strange. When he comes back from the Iron Curtain, he always goes to the dentist."

"Nothing," said the Head of Intelligence. "Nothing at all!"

"A few irregularities in his NHS payments," said Jones. "Nothing otherwise."

"Don't blame him," said the Head of Intelligence. "Wouldn't trust a Ruskie dentist."

"Not quite what I meant, sir. What I'm thinking is this..."

Chapter Five. "Have a good trip to Russia?" said the dentist.

Savage nodded. It was all he could do in his spreadeagled position. He noticed that there was a novel on the ceiling now, nailed into position at pages 34 and 35. He read the page, but could make nothing of them. Perhaps it was an Iris Murdoch.

"Hello, what do you suppose this is?" said the dentist, withdrawing a small black dot. "Microfilm?" suggested Savage.

"Unfortunately not. It looks organic to me. Have you by any chance been eating caviar?"

Oh lord, Savage suddenly remembered the pot of caviar he had consumed on the last night. And he had never brushed his teeth, in case he dislodged the vital dot.

"There are hundreds of black dots in your mouth, Mr Savage," said the dentist grimly. "This could take all..."

Suddenly the room was full of secret servicemen, searching Savage, searching the dentist, searching the bureau receptionist, several times. They found nothing. Jones smashed his teeth and retreated.

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FRIDAY PAGE

Nancy the Washington star

As America's most popular President is sworn in this weekend, Christopher Thomas looks at the changing image of his not-so-loved leading lady

Ronald Reagan said you would be surprised how useful it is to be an actor when you are a politician. He is by trade a political entertainer, and a good one. You can almost see his wand. He lends credibility to the silly, excruciating excesses of the White House theatre. Nancy Reagan, alas, is no such natural.

The First Lady learned from the boos that her first two years were a flop. She was a reasonably successful screen actress but she fluffed it in her opening season on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Was she not high-handed with staff? A giggling perfectionist? Too thin? Too adoringly, sickeningly sycophantic with Ronnie in public? Too distant? The audience thought so.

She has changed the image somewhat with the help of professional public relations people. Now she is better at the lines, the tricks, the zimmicks, the showbiz nonsense that infects American politics.

And when she was Hollywood actress Nancy Davis she was no seductress. She was shunted, protesting, into "character roles", that euphemism for playing older people or - worse still - respectable and ordinary people.

The couple's closeness has encouraged spiteful talk

She was young when Hollywood decided she was a bit mumsy. It was said by the experts in such esoteric matters that she was unsexy, her legs were not good enough, that Nancy in a bathing suit and even a short skirt was not sufficiently alluring.

She made the last of her 11 films in 1957 - *Heliconia of the Navy* it was called. Ronald Reagan also starred in it, a small fry actor compared with those Nancy had earlier played alongside - such people as James Mason and Van Heflin in *East Side, West Side* Glenn Ford in *The Dancer and the Girl*, Ray Milland in *Night into Morning*, and Fredric March in *It's a Big Country*.

She recalls: "I mostly played a series of roles in which I was either a young wife with children or about to have a child. I was padded to look pregnant more times than I can recall."

The image of the steady woman, the suburbanite, the

semi-pregnant lady was taking her nowhere professionally. Nancy Davis left MGM in 1952, a year after she had turned 30, the year she became Nancy Reagan.

Everybody who knows them says Nancy and Ronald are an extremely close couple, a fact that inexplicably encourages all manner of spiteful anecdotes about them, as if it is assumed that the most powerful man in the world should not succumb to such sentiment for such a thoroughly ordinary person.

Who in Washington has not heard that the President is often to be found snuggled on the couch upstairs watching a TV "soap" with Nancy in the mid-week afternoons? That particular story may even be true but it is told not because it is cute. It is told more often than not with a genuine sense of malice towards their intimacy.

Nancy Reagan's early coverage in the Press as a political wife was unfriendly. She did seem to regard her role as wife of the Governor of California as something akin to her role as a relatively well known film actress - a role of pretence.

Indeed that is what it is - Nancy Reagan, however, let it show. A published account of her unquestioning obedience to an impermanent television crew when she was the governor's wife in Sacramento went thus: "Fine," the newsmen said. "Just fine. Now I'll ask a question, and if you could just be nipping a bud as you answer it."

"Nipping a bud?" Nancy Reagan repeated, taking her place in front of the rhododendron bush.

"Let's have a dry run," the cameraman said. The newsmen looked at him. "In other words, by a dry run, you mean you want her to fake nipping the bud?"

"Fake the nip, yeah," the cameraman said. "Fake the nip."

It was a small incident, but it demonstrated the disrespect of the media towards her. She encountered a lot of giggling publicity.

But the publicity has changed. Hollywood decided she was a bit homely and America has finally come round to agreeing. She came to represent a good image of a governor's wife, a lady of fulsome charitable deeds and genuine concern for people.

It was let out that President Reagan's pet diminutive name for her is "Mommy". Apparently, it really is. Nancy Reagan, of course, is no glamorous Jacqueline Kennedy. Neither is she a horsey Eleanor Roosevelt. She does not quite fit the role of



The First Lady: Stepping out with the President in tow (above left); posing unsuccessfully for the movie moguls (above); and with Ronald Reagan, the actor, in the film *A Turkey for the President*

that upper class institution, of "the lady's charity", perhaps because her charitable choice is the seedy world of drug addiction. She works hard at it, far harder than necessary to assure the public that she is obeying the post-Jacqueline Kennedy unwritten rule that the First Lady must do charitable deeds. As a president needs a wife, a president's wife needs a cause.

Lady Bird Johnson was big on gardens, parks, the countryside and flowers. Pat Nixon favoured something called "volunteerism", but by all accounts did not volunteer with undue gusto. Betty Ford took to handicapped children. Rosalyn Carter chose mental health.

That Hollywood decided Nancy Reagan was a maternal figure seemed to hurt her. She wrote in her 1980 autobiography, *Nancy*: "I can remember going into the make-up department for my first day of shooting and how exciting it was for me to be sitting next to June Allyson or Elizabeth Taylor, both of whom later became good friends."

"Sidney Guiliardi was the famous hair stylist and Bill Tuttle was head of make-up. As I was being made up, the first day Bill came in to introduce himself and said, 'Well I guess that's all right, but we'll have to do something about her eyes - they are too big for pictures.' He was joking but I was so nervous I thought he was serious, so I went around the rest of the day with my eyes half closed."

The story goes that Nancy Davis approached Ronald Reagan in 1950 to help repudiate rumours that she had communist inclinations. It is probably apocryphal - even if she was not one of the glamour chicks she had good connections in the upper reaches of the Hollywood film establishment. It was unlikely that she needed Ronald Reagan's help.

Nancy Davis's godmother was Alla Nazimova, who made her name in New York for her roles in the first Stanislavsky-trained actress to play a lead role on Broadway. Nazimova held seances in her Hollywood palace (which later became the Garden of Allah Hotel). Rudolph Valentino was terribly impressed by them - he loved to attend. And so, New York and Hollywood are in Nancy's blood.

So, in a different way, is the nation's capital: she grew up outside Washington, and went to school in the city, which would be the dreariest place in the world but for its gripping political theatre. In their vastly different ways, New York, Hollywood and Washington are the greatest entertainment centres in the world. They have been Nancy's life.

For an actress, though never an especially acclaimed one, Nancy Reagan has an unusually severe and often unchanging expression - one of the reasons for her earlier unpopularity as the First Lady. Press photographers say they know every one of her expressions, and neither of them is photogenic.

Not long after Nancy Reagan arrived in the White House she rated 50 on a 0 to 100 scale of a

popularity poll. And so the public relations people got working and came up with a gimmick that seems to have marked a turning point. She sang and danced on stage as Second Hand Rose at one of Washington's annual society dinners. My goodness, could the puppet dance without strings?!

Born in 1921 in Manhattan - her name was Anne Frances Robbins and Nancy was a Nickname - to Kenneth Robbins, a car salesman, and Edith

fires and hirings? Some say considerable, some say minimal. In an interview this week she was at pains to point out that in the White House it was her husband who wore the pants. She obviously has played a part in staff appointments in the White House, but how extensive her influence is a secret probably known only to the Reagans. Nancy's overriding concern, certainly, is her husband. She protested when he was travelling too much. She complained that he had too many appointments.

Whatever Nancy Reagan does, whatever sort of person she might appear to be, she stands little chance of being really popular.

Of Mary Todd Lincoln it was said that she was shopping mad. Edith Galt Wilson was accused of running the country after her husband's stroke. Eleanor Roosevelt supposedly interfered too much in the affairs of government. Jacqueline Kennedy was superior and aloof and spent wildly. Pat Nixon was called "Plastic Pat." Betty Ford - for reasons perhaps now better understood - was embarrassingly forthright.

Nancy Reagan has managed to shed many of the labels hung upon her. The newest one is patronizing in the extreme: it says, essentially, "Not as bad as she was". Such is the hopelessness of being a popular president's wife, except of course with the President and the exclusive, private cadre of discreet personal friends.

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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Gas hazards

The horror of the Putney explosion and the disrupted traffic in Piccadilly are reminders of the explosive potential of methane, and the need for special care when frozen pipes can result in burst boilers and fractured gas pipes; cold weather also results in a series of less dramatic accidents due to carbon monoxide poisoning caused by the use of defective appliances. The gas board can protect the public to some extent from the dangers of leakage by including easily detected mercaptans, an evil-smelling organic sulphur compounds, with the inert natural gas, methane; but it is up to the

consumers to see that their gas fires are efficient.

Dr Tony Buckley, chief medical adviser to the gas board, told *The Times* that it was impossible to be poisoned by natural gas if the appliance was in good working order and had been properly installed with an adequate air supply and flue. If, however, there is an inadequate air supply in the room because of over-enthusiastic draught exclusion and double glazing, and when the flue is too small, improper combustion can occur and carbon monoxide be produced.

A frequent cause of the disaster is household fluff. "An absolute killer when it accumulates in the air intake and prevents proper combustion of natural gas", says Dr Buckley.

Breathe easy again



Even though few specialist hospitals are as well regarded by the medical profession as the Brompton Hospital, it has needed Princess Margaret's lung biopsy to give the hospital, and the chest diseases it treats, the type of lay publicity which any unit welcomes in its quest for essential research funds. A consultant at the hospital told *The Times* that it is only since her admission that he has been able to introduce himself as a consultant at the Brompton.

A piece of lung tissue can be

collected for examination in a variety of ways; either through a bronchoscope, an illuminated tube passed down the trachea and bronchial tubes, through the skin by using various types of needles or by open lung biopsy.

The advantages of a minor operation, the open lung biopsy, in order to take a specimen for microscopic examination, are its safety and accuracy. The improved diagnostic accuracy stems from the doctor's ability to inspect the lung and select a piece which is truly representative of the disease. The procedure is also safer than closed methods of biopsy.

Arctic at home

Dr Alasdair Smith, though he had treated his last case of frostbite when, after eight years in Arctic Labrador, he left his huskies behind him and returned to his Oxford practice; but he had taken account neither of this year's savage weather, nor the British love of skiing. This week he returned from being doctor to a prep school skiing party in Switzerland, where 30 of the 105 people on the holiday needed treatment for significant degrees of frost nip, the condition when the skin only is damaged, or frostbite when the blood vessels are also involved.

Surgeon Captain Frank Golden, director of research at the Institute of Naval Medicine, said although frostbite was likely to occur more readily in extremely cold weather any temperatures below freezing could result in human tissue falling below 0.55°C, the point at which damaging crystals could form.

Frost nip is common in skiing, the cheeks, nose, ears, chin and hands are particularly vulnerable to the rush of the cold wind which strikes them during a downhill run. Feet are

endangered by standing around, and are put at increased risk by the British dislike of long johns, neglecting the thighs and lower limbs, so that when the blood reaches the feet it is already chilled.

Dr Smith and Surgeon Captain Golden both emphasized the need for warm clothing to cover as much exposed skin surface as possible; both warned of the dangers of tight clothing impeding the circulation. A second pair of socks, if the boots were too tight, could increase the risk of frostbite by inhibiting the circulation. Boots should be done up firmly to give support to the ankle; but not so they are constricting. Other clothes too should be loose. Dr Smith said that this was dramatically demonstrated when he was in the Arctic and skin-bugging jeans first became the international uniform of youth. However provocative this fashion might have been in a Liverpool cellar, it lost its appeal in Labrador after it became common knowledge that several patients had suffered severe genital burns.

The experts both agreed that too gloomy a prognosis was often given in cases of frostbite; it was easy to mistake the black, dry, skin formed after a blood blister had dried for gangrene.

Rash thoughts

Fungal and yeast infections of the skin and mucous membranes are so common that a doctor can expect to find sufferers from athletes' foot, dhoti itch, nappy rash or thrush in most queues whether they are in a GP's surgery or a special clinic.

In the past week or two after a warning from the Committee on Safety of Medicines had been issued about the use of an antifungal agent some of these patients have been alarmed by headlines, which they have mistakenly understood to imply that their treatment, usually a tube of cream, packet of pessaries, or a bottle of lotion might result in death from liver failure.

The headlines did not represent the tone of the letter. No preparations made for external application of any of the commonly prescribed anti-fungal or anti-yeast preparations have been shown to cause any serious side effects; an oral preparation, a tablet or suspension of one of the less frequently used compounds, ketoconazole (Nizoral), has in 82 cases caused some liver trouble; five of these patients have died. But it seems probable that even these cases other factors, including alcohol, may have been involved.

The letter suggested that when there were so many absolutely safe ways of treating these common conditions it was unnecessary to take even the slight risk which would be involved by prescribing Nizoral tablets. It has been emphasized that sometimes a seriously ill patient needs the drug for generalized fungal or yeast infection. In these cases the physician might consider that the minute hazard was one worth taking.

The rest of humanity, disturbed by an itchy foot, or groin, can be assured that the prescribed cream is as innocent as it looks.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

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THE TIMES DIARY

Shared interest

John Butcher, the junior industry minister with specific responsibilities for the software industry, has a shared interest in the Register of Members' Interests. "There's absolutely no conflict of interest," Butcher insisted yesterday. He has, he tells me, informed his permanent secretary, senior officials and ministerial colleagues in the department and asked that papers involving ACT should not be passed to his office. The shares, he says, are held in blind trust in another name; he is not sure how many there are, he has had them for three years, and declared them this year for the first time not because he had to, but because he "felt it best to be overzealous." All well and good. His admission does, however, speak volumes on the relaxed Tory attitude to ministerial shareholdings which disturbs the opposition and leaves ministers vulnerable to criticism. The prospects of high-tech companies does, after all, depend largely on the general policy decisions of one man - John Butcher.

Knews

It's not every week that the Jewish Chronicle has a world exclusive. In November they had one - and decided not to use it. Editor Geoffrey Paul first got wind of the mass airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel in October. Within a month he had all the information he needed to run the story - weeks before the rest of the world caught on to it a fortnight ago. Paul has no regrets. "We decided breaking the story was not worth a single life," he tells me. More than 7,000 Falashas subsequently left Ethiopia before publicity ground Operation Moses to a halt.

Tooth and nail

Hansard reports a hitherto unnoticed clash between two of the Conservatives' more flamboyant backbenchers. It begins with Edwin Currie's attempt to interrupt Nicholas Fairbairn's speech on Monday against fluoridation. Fairbairn: "No, I shall not give way. I was relieved to discover that my Hon. Friend was in favour of fluoridation because that confirmed my conviction against it." Mrs Currie: "Is my Hon. Friend seriously saying that no one ever died under general anaesthetic for dental treatment...?" Fairbairn: "...if that is the basis of my Hon. Friend's argument, I can say only that I hope she will take a general anaesthetic frequently."

Room service

The present influx of tourists ensures that the Dorchester Hotel's owner, the Sultan of Brunei, is unlikely to have to unravel a second run of the great empty room mystery of the late 1970s. According to a senior director at the time, the number of rooms let, as recorded by the reception desk, never quite tallied with the housekeeping department's records of numbers of rooms slept in. An independent auditor was duly called in. After extensive investigation it emerged the reason was not financial skulduggery: it was simply that some members of staff, rather more interested in each other than the guests, had taken to using vacant rooms for their own romantic purposes.

BARRY FANTONI



"That's good. It means we'll have ads in between after all!"

Making waves

Sir Alfred Sherman, former political adviser to the Prime Minister and Centre for Policy Studies director until his departure last summer, clearly misses the limelight. He is soon to announce the creation of a new "think tank", aided by a dozen as-yet-named businessmen, academics, literati, journalists and fellow ex-prime ministerial advisers who apparently share a belief that the CPS has become moribund and conformist. The group, to be called Policy Search, will be self-financing, non-party political and, Sir Alfred insists, "a public service". He has grandiose aims. It will not fear to criticise the Government, he says. Its work will "generate a new sense of intellectual excitement... be critical of everything... question the unquestioned... work towards a new consensus and as soon as we get it, attack it". And if, as the CPS likes to think it did with Mrs Thatcher, it succeeds in inventing a new prime minister, that will no doubt be pleasing too.

PHS

Put tapping under the law

By Steven Norris

The Government will very shortly be publishing its White Paper on telephone tapping. It comes as a response to the decision of the European Court in the Malone case, which cast doubt on the present system of authorising phone taps in the UK. To its credit, the Government promised action, but will it go far enough? So far, the prospects look fairly bleak.

Last year's Data Protection Act stemmed from a Council of Europe convention. This asserted that individuals are under threat unless special measures are taken to control the use and spread of confidential personal information, which can now be easily obtained and speeded around the world without any checks about accuracy being made.

Britain agreed in principle but when the Bill appeared it seemed to many to be more concerned with the problems of data users than the rights of data subjects. We needed an Act in order to conform to the European convention because it would cost us jobs and exports if we did not. We were given an Act which did just that and no more.

All the signs are that the minimalist approach is now going to be applied to protection of privacy, and yet there can be few civil rights issues which are more important in a free society. If Leon Brittan proposes to deal only with the procedure for authorising official telephone taps which is all he has to do to satisfy the European Court he will be ignoring the appalling irony that private surveillance, including telephone tapping, is now almost totally outside the scope of the law.

Not surprisingly, no one applies for official permission to commit industrial espionage, to conduct surveillance on a party to a matrimonial dispute or simply to help commit a criminal offence. Yet if and when the bugging is uncovered the outraged victim finds that, apart from a possible minor breach of the Wireless Telegraphy Act, and the most tenuous of technical trespass, the offender can escape scot-free. Nor does he even have a civil remedy for breach of confidence he has a civil right of damages if B discloses the confidence. If C is tapping the conversation and makes the disclosure, neither A nor B can currently do anything about it. The Law Commission spells this out to the Government in 1981, but so far its warnings have gone unheeded.

There are virtually no criminal sanctions against surveillance and precious little civil protection. And who believes the only way to start a surveillance network is by telephone tapping alone? Sophisticated bugging devices can now be purchased quite openly, and unless we want to see our own right to privacy and confidentiality disappear, we have to legislate for tomorrow's technology today.

Of course the British often pride themselves that this sort of conduct may happen across the Atlantic or on the Continent, but never here. But in practice we already seem to have slipped uncomfortably behind most other European countries, who have been much more alive to the dangers. The UK is now almost the only

European state where government tapping is invariably approved by administrative authority in the person of the Home Secretary, judge and jury in his own court. No one represents the person whose confidentiality is to be breached, and there is no independent judicial involvement or scrutiny.

Meanwhile, under Swiss law, judges are obliged to submit a copy of any decision to tap a phone and an explanation of their reasons for approval by the President of the Indictments, who can revoke the authorization if he decides there has been a "breach of the federal law, including an over-stepping or abuse of discretionary powers". West Germany is the only other power whose arrangements have been examined by the European Court. There, authorization is requested by either the administrative or judicial authority depending on the purpose of the surveillance.

Leon Brittan is undoubtedly a libertarian by nature. He must surely know that these issues are too important to be brushed aside because of a vague belief that "it could never happen here". He will appreciate that history shows all too frequently that when any society takes its liberties too much for granted it has started on the path of losing them. Vice-Chancellor Megarry, commenting on the Malone case, asserted that the Government now has the opportunity to answer that cry and we must hope that it is prepared to grasp it with both hands.

The author is Conservative MP for Oxford East.

Diana Geddes considers the future of Le Monde under its new editor

Can this man change the world?

André Fontaine, one of France's most distinguished journalists, is expected to be confirmed today as the new editor-in-chief of *Le Monde*. But will he be capable of willing to carry out the radical changes deemed necessary to rescue France's leading national daily from the worst crisis of its 40-year history? Is there indeed any longer a viable place for a serious journal of record such as *Le Monde*?

Over the last three years, *Le Monde* has accumulated a deficit of nearly £7m. Circulation has fallen by 15 per cent to 360,000, and advertising revenue has slumped. That might not be so disastrous if the paper had some wealthy press magnates to tide it over a difficult period, but it has no outside capital on which it can draw. It has now literally no money left with which to pay even its own staff. Something has to be done immediately or it will be forced to start bankruptcy proceedings, although there is no question of an immediate threat of closure.

The paper is in disarray. Once regarded as the paper which everyone who was anyone must read, it is now seen as rather grey and tired, too verbose, overly opinionated, and more than a little complacent. Ever since the Socialists came to power in 1981 the traditionally left-of-centre paper seems to have been unable to find a satisfactory new role or identity. It has lost its way.

The paper's fortunes were already in decline after a decade of poor financial management when the jilted André Laurens took the helm in May 1982. M. Laurens, the much liked but rather colourless political editor then aged 47, was chosen after two years of highly damaging, in-fighting and political manoeuvring as a compromise candidate to succeed the dynamic Jacques Fauvet on his retirement.

Despite carrying out some important economies, including cutting 130 out of 1,350 jobs, it soon became clear that Laurens was simply not up to the task. He was too shy and retiring to provide a much-needed public figurehead, and apparently too weak (or too nice) to take the tough action required to sort out the paper's financial problems, calibrate the demoralized staff, and mark out a clear new direction for the paper's future.

His rescue plan, involving a 15 per cent cut in salaries, the sale of the paper's offices near the Opéra, and the closure of one of its two print works with the loss of a further undisclosed number of jobs, was almost doomed to failure before it was announced. He simply did not have the confidence of the journalists, and that, on a paper with *Le Monde's* structure was vital. It was



Le Monde's sign the new editor. Below: journalists come for the vote at a general meeting

their rejection of his plans that led to his resignation last month.

Le Monde is unusual institution: a private company largely owned and run by its 185 journalists. They represent only 14 per cent of the total staff, but own 40 per cent of the shares; another 40 per cent is owned by 15 private individuals, including Hubert Beuve-Méry, *Le Monde's* founder and editor for 25 years; 5 per cent is owned by the white-collar staff; and the remaining 10 per cent by the editor-in-chief. Any important change in the running of the paper, such as the appointment of a new editor or the adoption of a new financial plan, has to be submitted first to the journalists and then, if approved, to a full meeting of shareholders.

This model of democracy, dreamed up by Beuve-Méry, gives the journalists extraordinary power over the paper's fortunes which

many, both inside and outside *Le Monde*, are beginning to regard as not wholly salutary. "We are in the process of dying from our democracy," one journalist commented. "To be able to vote for things is good if you say 'yes' once in a while. But it has been consistently 'no' to everything that has been proposed for far too long. The paper has become paralyzed."

It is probably the vision of the precipice at their feet which prompted the journalists on Tuesday to give Fontaine, whom they have rejected twice before as editor in chief, the 60 per cent of the vote he needed on the first round.

M. Fontaine has already put forward the outline of his rescue plan for the paper. It would involve:

- The introduction of outside funding, preferably from financial institutions rather than wealthy individuals to minimise the danger of any interference in *Le Monde's*

much-prized independence. The new outside shareholders would nevertheless be granted voting rights. To accommodate this, and to curb criticism of the journalists' power, Mr. Fontaine proposes cutting the journalists' proportion of shares to 26 or 27 per cent. That, he maintained, would still be large enough to enable them to block unpalatable proposals.

- An immediate 10 per cent across-the-board cut in salaries pending reform of the whole salary structure.

- In extremis, the sale of the paper's offices, valued at about 80 million francs, although 20 million of that is mortgaged. Fontaine is anxious to avoid this step, however.

- Closing one of the print works, and sharing print facilities with other papers.

- A reinvigoration of the paper itself, with less emphasis on lengthy political speeches and commentaries, and more space devoted to economic affairs, medicine, science, technology and readers' letters.

M. Fontaine is a man of outstanding intellectual ability and great charm. At the age of 63, he is in many ways a more modern man than the much younger Laurens. Most of the *Le Monde* journalists feel that he will be an excellent ambassador for their paper.

There are doubts, however. His plan sounds courageous, but is it radical enough, and is he tough enough to see it through? Some journalists complain that he lacks decision and is too easily swayed.

Others fear that his remarkably good contacts with the top people in France, both on the right and left, make for too cosy a relationship.

Le Monde is not alone in its troubles. Virtually the whole of the National French press, and much of the normally more stable provincial press, are suffering from declining sales and falling advertising revenue as a result of the economic crisis and rapidly growing competition from radio and television.

A glowing and much-quoted exception is *Libération*, the lively, left-wing daily which has become the "in" paper to read in French intellectual and government circles, and whose sales have jumped up by a third over the past year. It has become fashionable to suggest that this is an example that *Le Monde* should follow. But *Libération's* sales are still only one third of *Le Monde's*. It is often more original and always less stuffy, but it does not approach *Le Monde's* standards of authority, accuracy, or completeness. For all its problems, *Le Monde* remains indisputably France's greatest daily and one of the great papers of the world.

Alliance show that gets a bad review

David Watt

Anyone surprised at the indifference and even hostility now being displayed by many politicians towards the BBC in its hour of need would have been much enlightened by a visit to the High Court this week where the Corporation's fatal political flat-footedness has once again been displayed to fine effect.

If you read to the end of this article you will not be surprised that the case I refer to has had almost no coverage on television and very little in the press, so let me briefly explain the situation. Dr Owen and Mr David Steel have been protesting since June 1983 over their treatment by the broadcasting authorities. Neither the BBC nor ITV, they claim, has made the faintest attempt, in treating current affairs and news, to reflect the Alliance's near-parity with Labour votes at the general election, although the political parties have now agreed a formula for party political broadcasts which roughly reflects the popular voting pattern.

Having applied unavailingly to the chairman of the BBC and the IBA for satisfaction, the Alliance leaders made a formal complaint last June to Lady Pike, the chairman of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission which was set up by the 1981 Broadcasting Act. The commission promptly declined this poisoned cup, replying that their terms of reference allowed them to consider complaints only about a particular programme and that they could not deal with criticism of the balance of editorial policy as a whole. To make quite sure they were not importuned further on the subject they added, gratuitously, that even if such a complaint had been within their jurisdiction they would have exercised their discretion under the Act, and refused to hear it. Dr Owen's response has been to ask the courts to rule that the complaint is within the commission's scope and force the commission to consider it.

The hearing of this case, on which Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Taylor have, with understandable caution, reserved judgment, seems to me to have left the narrow argument nicely poised. It is clear from the statute that Parliament didn't actually envisage the Barons and her merry men deciding a matter of this kind. It is equally clear that, even if they were suddenly endowed with unexpected new gifts of intelligence, insight and impartiality their judgment would not, under present law, have the slightest binding force on the broadcasting authorities or on individual producers.

On the other hand, if the commission is not to adjudicate on what is and what is not "fair" time, who is? It would be very difficult, as well as, objectionable, for the politicians themselves to impose detailed guidelines on supposedly independent broadcasters. The Governors of the BBC and the members of the IBA could be seen (and are said by the commission) to be the proper custodians of fairness, but what if they fail to do their duty, or (as in this case) strike a balance over which there are serious protests? Where is the court of appeal?

This question leads into deep waters at once; it appears that while the IBA is enjoined by law to be "fair" and can therefore be chal-

lenged in the courts if it is not, the BBC, which is set up by Royal Charter, is under no such legal constraint. The consequence - as the commission's counsel conceded in court this week - is that if no Alliance spokesman were ever permitted to appear on the BBC at all, and if, as the commission claims, it is none of its business to beat the governors over the head, then no other redress whatever is available.

The traditional defence of this situation - which is naturally promulgated by the main parties whom it benefits - is a bell-bottomed affair: on the one hand "it's just your bad luck for losing so there" and on the other, even if it is uncomfortably unfair, there are good technical reasons why it can't be changed. But the "hard cheese" argument is extremely hard to sustain against the evidence offered to the High Court this week by the SDP of what was actually being happening on the television screens. A detailed analysis conducted by them of the two main evening news programmes over 10 weeks between February and April last year shows that Conservative (or ministerial) spokesmen received 76 per cent of allotted news time, Labour 25% and the Alliance 5 per cent. Rather too much for most non-partisan stomachs.

The technical let-out is that newsgatherers must follow the news; it is inevitable that the government of the day, which "makes" much of the news, should get the lion's share of attention and the Alliance, with the exception of its two leaders, is seldom newsworthy. There is a real point here, of course, but does it come near to justifying the findings of the survey?

The truth is that programme-makers cannot twist the news to suit the Alliance, but they can and do make a deliberate choice of whom they wish to comment on. The proof of this, of course, is not in the words of the High Court last Monday in the form of a wonderfully insolent letter from the late George Howard, then chairman of the BBC, to the two Alliance leaders in July, 1983. When they had suggested to him that the general election results ought to affect the two-party near-monopoly of the BBC's coverage.

"Parliamentary convention," he said, "normalises the Opposition party with most seats as Her Majesty's Opposition. As far as I know, that continues to be the convention. It is one which we shall continue to observe in our coverage when seeking official comment on announcements of public policy. Your Alliance may disagree with the electoral system which awards you only 23 seats. But that is the reality... and the one that must be uppermost in our minds. So, there can be no question of the BBC's granting to the Alliance near-parity of coverage with the Labour Party."

Here is the "hard cheese" doctrine with a vengeance. For the BBC in its present straits it is arguably the safest, being the one least likely to upset the Prime Minister. What is indefensible is that such an extraordinary statement can be handed down without any possibility of rational (or simply political) challenge or review. If the Broadcasting Complaints Commission will not provide a forum, perhaps we should, like the Americans, have a regulatory Communications Commission that will.

Philip Howard

Bespoke words, cut to fit

In the English language there are many mansions, cellars, cupboards, departments and reservoirs. From Strine to Sociologese. The two great registers are written and spoken English, which are almost two different languages. You have only to listen to a tape-recorder of yourself speaking, or to read a transcript of an unscripted talk to see the difference. Oral English is unbuttoned, ungrammatical, catachrestic, and full of pauses and cottonwool fillers such as "You know what I mean?" to give oneself time to work out the next line to say next. It is to written English what, in the wardrobe, jeans and a T-shirt are to the old fish-and-soup white tie and tails.

Very few people speak as they write; and they tend to be sages. I am told that Bertie Russell and Bernard Shaw spoke in the same sort of structured way that they wrote. In our generation Lord Quinton and B. Leavis are famed, and are good speakers. Put them in front of a microphone and they will talk real prose until the cows come home without drawing breath. But the transcript of even their talk will occasionally contain flaws that they would not let by in their written work. Most of us discriminate sharply between our written and spoken English. If we fail to do so, and use English suitable for a Times leader, full of "nevertheless" and "circadian rhythms", in the pub, or vice versa, we shall soon be talking to ourselves or answering a lot of sanesetic letters to the Editor.

Journalists who work with the written word are seldom at ease with spoken English. With a typewriter, you can look at what you have written, say "Damn", rip the sheet of paper out of the roller, and start again to get it right; or, *mutatis mutandis*, press the appropriate button for erasure on the word processor; in my case certainly the wrong foot knob.

Nevertheless, and in the circadian rhythms of life in the word factory, we have all been having to do more than our wont with oral English because of the deeply wonderful Times bicentenary. "Can we now explain in 18 seconds exactly about *The Times* policy on

appeasement, fairly, and in terms that can be understood by chaps and chaperons in northern drinking clubs, who do not normally take *The Times*, even know what it is?" So you struggle words, and toes, then around, and cut, cut, simplify and oralize them for an hour or so, until you have 18 seconds exactly, no more and no less. And then Robert Fleming, the producer, puts his head in his hands and says, "It's not quite right." Or Catherine Freeman wants to beef it up a bit. Or Tony Quayle says, "I cannot say that on the air." And it is back to the clip-board, chaps.

The last week of production of the Thames TV film about *The Times*, *The Greatest Newspaper in the World*, consisted of about 16 hours a day sitting in a small box chipping away at words to fit pictures. The pains to get it right were very impressive. The pain and frustration were considerable. It says something complimentary about our nature that nobody came out with a bloody nose. Don't tell them, but I suspect that telly journo, like the typing so, take a macho pleasure in expanding their work right up to the deadline.

This explains why some pieces from the cutting-room floor that appeared in *The Times* eventually appeared in the programme, also. They had been reinstated from the cutting-room floor, in the "filly seven" reign of the newsworld. And there is yet another job. I am quite unsuited for keeping tabs on all those fiddly bits of tape. When we wrote that 30-hours-of-film-ended-up on the cutting-room floor, we were carried away by hyperbole and misunderstanding of the matter. At a time of retrenchment at Thames, so wasteful a disproportion could cost Fleming his job. It was more like 20 hours, or shall we say 15. So don't be a cad, Cowgill, and a gremlin in the office had us describing Tony Lee as the president, when he was in fact the indefatigable researcher. Even the written word is not perfect. But I thought the programme got it right, and managed the impossible, by making the private life of a newspaper intelligible and interesting to those outside the ink trade.

David Felton
Labour correspondent



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE CAP MUST NOW FIT

The arithmetic of this year's rate support grant is done. The apparatus of targets and penalties is in place. From here on, through the spring budgetary cycle of the nation's local authorities, both the figures and the political choices they constrain are clear. We may rue the Government's failure over five years to re-structure local finances so as to bolster local self-government, its paradoxical centralization of power in pursuit of a reduction in the scale of municipal operations, its casual loading into the offices of Whitehall bureaucrats of decisions that properly belong in the shires and the boroughs. However, the time for regret about the direction of the Government's strategy for local affairs is past. The Rates Act, 1984, is the law. And the next few months must see its purposes realized in the containment of rate levies and reduction of aggregate council spending.

But wait. The Secretary of State for the Environment sets down a date for hearing appeals by the councils whose rates are being limited by central decree and then extends it. On Wednesday Environment Department officials say there is a new deadline of next Thursday - when the parliamentary order has to be laid - but there could be, they say *en route*, scope for adjustments to figures later still. Meanwhile there is talk by the Secretary of State's representatives of possible "mistakes" in calculations. He announces his willingness to see the hard-line councils as a self-constituted group, despite giving earlier a strong impression that since rates targets were fixed individually there was no logic in collective discussions.

All this, Mr Jenkin might tell us, indicates statutory reasonableness on his part. Perhaps. But it serves ultimately to reduce public administration to the

level of the bazaar. This is public money being banded over the counter at the discretion of ministers and the whim of councillors. In December we were told that the rates targets were fixed. Councils were given both expenditure levels and approved rate poundages. Now it seems those figures were merely illustrative. Unless Mr Jenkin is planning to alter targets (at what cost to the 1985-86 public spending plans?) then the purpose of his meetings with councillors is unclear.

The councillors from Sheffield, from Lambeth, from the Greater London Council go to Mr Jenkin asking for one thing - money. Some want only enough to buy them the illusion of concession and so hoodwink the Labour Party. Others want it all. With linguistic extravagance typical of Liverpool, Councillor Hutton talks of bloodying the Prime Minister's nose. A cleverer militant Councillor McDonnell from the GLC says he wants £4 billion. Mr Blunkett of Sheffield says he merely wants the repeal of the 1984 Act, the emasculation of the 1980 Local Government Planning and Land Act and the 1982 Local Government Finance Act - yes, and money, too. These are the men to whom Mr Jenkin says his door is ever open. The question again is for what purposes other than subversion of the regime of expenditure control?

Mr Jenkin should brook no further delay. He has taken, as he puts it, a proxy for the ratepayers of the rate-capped districts. He owes them at least a speedy determination. He should seek the Parliamentary Orders imposing rates limits as soon as possible and before then, entertain an emergency approach from an individual council only if in the fullest presentation of its financial circumstances new facts are attested. The law may

require the secretary of state to hold himself open for consultation but sound administration requires him to act with celerity. It is of course open to Parliament - availed by arguments from the rate-capped councils - to seek to vary the rates orders. But once approved there must be no repetition of last year's protracted sequence of "negotiations" between the secretary of State and blackmailing local councillors.

Their election admits councillors to the exercise of powers within the law. No law requires a councillor, singularly or collectively, to vote to make a rate (except in a pre-emptive authority such as the GLC). The Labour hardliners could, if they united, at the very least test both the law and the available mechanisms for detecting and remedying default. But there is nothing that need scare Labour is disinclined. Councillors are loathe to relinquish the appearances of power. The government's target figures are, in most cases, achievable without local calamity. Wild talk about loan default is, in most cases, just that and can be ignored.

The path of selective control of rates has always threatened to bring the government up against local militants who might deliver on their rhetoric with some political embarrassing dislocation of popular services. But the government has gone too far down this road to worry now about the element of risk in its strategy. The time is for resolution. A start should be made at once by a government announcement that it will not pay rate support grant to councils which by the end of March have not made a valid rate. That threat by striking the Labour Party where it hurts - in the pockets of the municipal unions - will at once distinguish the town hall posturers from the genuine revolutionaries.

THE ISRAELIS DEPART

Israel's decision to withdraw from Southern Lebanon has been analysed as a victory for the "Shiite school" over the "Palestinian school" among Israeli decision-makers. By implication that makes it also a victory for the Shiite resistance in South Lebanon itself, which has achieved what no Palestinian resistance so far has. It has obtained an Israeli retreat by convincing Israeli leaders that they can enjoy a quieter and safer life if they withdraw than if they stay. That is partly because the Lebanese Shiites have proved much tougher and more effective than the Palestinians as guerrilla fighters, but partly because being Lebanese has a great political advantage over being Palestinian.

A Lebanese can fight for the complete liberation of his homeland without directly threatening Israel's existence. A Palestinian cannot. Faced with Lebanese resistance, Israel can take a calculated gamble that it will leave her alone once she withdraws from Lebanon, even without any explicit agreement to that effect. Faced with Palestinian resistance she feels obliged to treat even explicit offers of peace with great suspicion, since she knows that the full aspirations of Palestinian nationalism could not be satisfied by anything less than her complete disappearance.

But the decision to withdraw is above all a victory for common sense - the common sense of Israel's army commanders and of her defence minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin. They have not flinched from using very harsh methods in dealing with the resistance from day to day, but they have never mistaken such methods for a solution. As Mr Rabin remarked after ordering his most drastic clampdown last month, "today,

what we face is a Shia-Israeli war rather than a PLO-Israeli war, and I would like to avoid it". And this week in explaining the decision to withdraw, he said: "The Shiites and we will have to learn to live peacefully together. I don't see any conflict of interest between them and us".

It is unlikely, however, that Mr Rabin and his colleagues will entrust the security of Israel's northern border entirely to a spontaneous outburst of Shiite goodwill. Certainly they hope that Lebanese Shiites will find no motive for attacking Israel once Israel has withdrawn, but will on the contrary find a common interest with Israel in preventing renewed infiltration of the region by Palestinian trouble-makers. Indeed, one of Israel's reasons for not delaying the withdrawal any longer is that, quite clearly, the longer the occupation continues the stronger the hold on the population of pro-Khomeini zealots ready to engage in a jihad against Zionism, at the expense of the primarily Lebanese nationalist Amal movement.

But equally clearly Israel would have preferred to withdraw on the basis of an agreement including a role for her protégés, the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA), and a deployment of UNIFIL (the United Nations "interim" Force, whose "interim" has lasted since 1978) well to the north of its present lines. Only when it became clear that the Lebanese Government, in its post-1984 Syrian-dominated form, would not concede either of these points did Israel decide to go ahead and withdraw unilaterally.

Israel cannot unilaterally dictate the deployment of UN troops. She can and no doubt will unilaterally hand over territory to the SLA, as she did in 1978 to its predecessor under Major Saad Haddad. Unfortunately few who have seen that force in action believe that it is capable of maintaining order in the south and many doubt if it will even remain in existence once the Israelis themselves have gone.

Unifil has a rather better record of peacekeeping in the south, where and when it has been left to get on with the job, and Israel's current interest in its strengthening and extension are a belated tribute to its effectiveness. It is in a way a pity that Israel is asking for this, because it has given the Syrians and Lebanese a reason to oppose it, whereas it is desirable much more for reasons of Lebanese security. It is the Lebanese, and the Palestinian inhabitants of Lebanon, who are the primary victims of Lebanese anarchy, which affects Israel only indirectly and marginally.

Of course it is true that Lebanon's internal security must in the end be assured by the forces of the Lebanese state, whether military, paramilitary or simple police. But obviously it is going to take time for those forces to achieve the necessary strength in relation to the various factional militias. During that time some very nasty things are liable to happen. Israel can help to prevent that by some attempt to disarm as many as possible of the gunmen in the area, and by giving asylum to those who have collaborated with her beyond hope of mercy from the victorious resistance. But the UN could also help by offering its protection to civilians during the immediate period of withdrawal. It can do that without becoming identified with one side in a power struggle, as the French and US contingents of the multinational force did in 1983-4. It has a humanitarian duty to do so.

Yours faithfully,
PAT ADAMS,
6 Fitzmaurice Place,
Berkley Square, W1,
January 14.

Moral stance on 'blood-doping'

From Dr N. C. Craig Sharp

Sir, Your correspondent on "blood-doping" notes today (January 12) that "blood transfusions are neither illegal under Olympic rules, nor officially considered as a doping method". Rule 27 of the Olympic Charter begins with "Doping is forbidden". A "list of prohibited drugs" follows, without further definition of "doping".

However, in the International Olympic Committee Medical Commission booklet, issued at the 1976 Montreal Games, the definition of doping prohibits "... the use of physiological substances in abnormal amounts and with abnormal methods, with the exclusive aim of attaining an artificial and unfair increase of performance in competition". This would quite clearly seem to apply to the transfusion of blood.

The detection of such "hyper-transfusions" does at present pose difficulties, but surely an illegal and sporting act is no less so because it cannot yet be detected. If correctly reported, the activities of the American medical team responsible for their cyclists are to be deplored.

In 1981, at the Olympic summit congress in Baden Baden, Sebastian Coe said on behalf of the athletes: "In 'doping'... we call for the life ban of coaches and so-called doctors who administer this evil".

My own fears, as expressed on the pre-Olympic *Tomorrow's World* programme, that international sport could turn into contests between laboratories, will be realised much sooner than expected unless a very strong moral stance is taken against the less easily detected forms of doping.

Yours faithfully,
N. C. CRAIG SHARP, Co-Director,
The Human Motor Performance Laboratory,
Edgobank Park Road,
Birmingham,
January 12.

Falklands hospital

From the Representative of the Falkland Islands Government

Sir, I would like to comment briefly upon the extract from Mr Robert Fox's book *Antarctica and the South Atlantic* published in *The Times* of January 7.

I am particularly concerned by the misleading impression created regarding the proposed new hospital and provision of medical services in the Falkland Islands.

The "remains of the walls of the old hospital" to which Mr Fox refers is in fact the Churchill Wing, opened in 1953, which survived the fire largely unscathed, apart from some smoke damage. It is planned that this should accommodate the civilian out-patient and community health-care facilities, whilst a new wing will contain acute cases and surgical facilities.

Plans for sheltered accommodation for the elderly had been drawn up before the hospital fire and the Falkland Islands Government was negotiating for a suitable site. Provision for 11 such units has now been included in the outline plan for the new hospital.

I should like to make it quite clear that the Falkland Islands Government's prime concern in approving these plans is to provide an efficient, comprehensive and cost-effective medical service for the islands. We believe the new hospital will fulfil all these needs.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR CAMERON,
Representative,
Falkland Islands Government,
29 Tufnell Street,
Westminster, SW1,
January 14.

People and places

From Mr Pat Adams

Sir, "What a wealth of fictional names lies there" - how right Miles Kingston (January 11) is about our villages.

Not long ago, in the Lincolnshire Wolds, a friend saw a signpost which said: "To Mavis Enderby & Old Bolingbroke".

Someone had added "a son".

Yours faithfully,
PAT ADAMS,
6 Fitzmaurice Place,
Berkley Square, W1,
January 13.

Age of chivalry

From Mrs Ann Appleford

Sir, In the London Tube the other day a young man made way for his wife to sit down next to me in the only seat left. He then sat on her lap.

Yours faithfully,
ANN APPLEFORD,
6 Chelmsford Walk,
Chelmsford,
Essex,
January 11.

Ritual slaughter

From Dr Sydney Torrance

Sir, I do not propose to reply in detail to the letter (January 3) by the Executive Director of the RSPCA.

His organisation's strictures against religious slaughter of animals for food have hitherto been of a speculative nature and were completely unsupported by scientific evidence. This body has now drawn attention to research in New Zealand which appears to support

their contentions. However, this particular work, which contradicts earlier research reports, has failed to receive acceptance. More recent work by the Meat Research Institute in Bristol gave results which confirmed these earlier findings and stated that the majority view must prevail.

Further, it has been reliably reported that failures in the use of the captive bolt and electric shocks affect about one animal in three. Such failures can cause indescribable pain to the unfortunate animal involved. Surely the RSPCA should be using its might and its money to improve this alarming situation.

The *Times* leader of December 27, 1984, far from being one-sided, argued that expert investigation, especially in relation to the findings of the electro-encephalograph, is necessary to resolve the issue. Lord

Laying blame for sterling's collapse

From Mr Roy Jenkins, MP for Glasgow, Bellshiel (Scott)

Sir, Your Tuesday leader (January 15) was rightly critical of the Government, but for the wrong reasons. The central fault of the extreme monetarist view which the Government embraces, although not enthusiastically enough for you, is its irrationality. It judges policies by labour not by result.

Such anti-empiricism may have its place in certain fields of human endeavour, but not in the management of the economy or of the exchange rate. These are material processes to be judged by material results.

What actually happens then has to be either ignored or distorted. Lack of confidence in Britain's anti-inflationary prospects is not the reason why the recent strength of the dollar has led to the collapse of sterling, but to a much less severe downward movement in, for example, the French franc.

The primary cause is that the rest of the world cannot see how we are going to pay our way when the oil runs down. Much of our industry was destroyed by the complacent neglect that allowed the pound to soar unrealistically in 1980-81. And that part which remains is still so uncompetitive that even with the pound at a weighted trade index of 71 (against 100 to 1975) we have markedly failed to get out full share of the recent surge of imports into the United Kingdom.

What is the point of the Government constantly congratulating itself on the splendid leanness of British industry when most of the evidence is that it is malnutrition and not muscular tone which has been achieved?

Then we have the extraordinary pantomime-horse act of 10 Downing Street and the Treasury over last weekend. If July was a rehearsal of incompetence, January's performance showed that practice makes perfect.

Mr Shore's egregiousness of two years ago, when he proclaimed that the policy of a Labour Government would be a gradual devaluation of 30 per cent, pales into insignificance compared with the Government announcing its indifference to a one-dollar pound and then being annoyed at the market reaction. He was only a shadow Chancellor.

A large part of the trouble stems from a combination of the present Chancellor's insensitivity and the Prime Minister's unnamable tendency always to blame something or someone other than himself. As a result, she handles the exchange rate

with peculiar ineptitude. It cannot, of course, be commanded by any Government. But it can be considerably influenced by a firm and consistent policy to behave less erratically and more in our national interests.

This is not achieved by treating market forces as though they were junior ministers, first patted on the head as her own special property, then sternly ordered to stop behaving independently and improperly, and finally assailed with a flailing mass of misleading statistics.

To suggest, as the Prime Minister did on Tuesday, that the performance of the D-Mark and the pound are similar is to stretch credulity beyond the limit, and to bewail, as she also did, the fact that no single country has reserves large enough to make an impact on speculation (which is not wholly true) while standing out from achieving the combined *masse de manoeuvre* which could come from membership of the EMS (European Monetary System), is, to say the least, perverse.

The Government's main form of defence is the purely debating one of asking any critic exactly what exchange rate they want. There is no immoderate answer, if only because it is often difficult to move away from a position to which a rate would not have wished to get in the first place.

What can be said, however, is that we want one good deal more stable than we have seen in the past 31 years of plunge from \$2.20 to \$1.10 and that we want one which is at least partly determined by some rational thought in the Treasury and the Bank of England.

Sterling is no longer in the upper second rank of world currencies, as are the yen and the D-Mark, but its management is still of great importance to Britain and some considerable importance to the world.

The evidence steadily mounts that Mrs Thatcher and Mr Lawson, by performance and temperament, are unfitted to be in charge of such a currency. It is almost impossible to imagine the comment which would have been forthcoming from the Opposition, the City and, not least, you, Sir, had recent *dégringolades* been presided over by anyone other than a Conservative Prime Minister and Chancellor.

Yours faithfully,
ROY JENKINS,
St Amand's House,
East Hendred,
Oxfordshire,
January 17.

Testing teacher merit

From Professor W. R. Niblett

Sir, As a former educator of teachers, now safely retired, I can perhaps contribute a couple of more or less objective notes on the testing of teacher quality.

Most departments and colleges preparing teachers for their career used - regrettably or not - to classify their students not only as pass or fail in "practical teaching" but, if they passed, as the large majority did, to categorise their suitability for the classroom as A, B, C or D. No sensible examiner, external or internal, thought that these were permanent or immutable pigeon-holes.

Rarely was a candidate graded A (4 per cent to 8 per cent of the total) who had not some outstanding, even thrilling, promise; or one graded D who could with confidence be expected to do well in the classroom without help in the early years of a career. Yet the chances of A's being appointed to posts were often only marginally better than the C's and D's; for the assessment arrived at by the college department was often not given much weight by appointing

schools or authorities. (Could this, ironically, have been due to a distrust of training institutions and all their works?)

There are many factors which affect teachers' success in their profession besides their skill as instructors. One of these is their luck in having a head or head of department who understands and appreciates them; another is their being able to move from one school to another at the right time. Too simplistic a judgement of professional competence can lead to the disappearance from the profession of some whose fault is loss of hope, not lack of teaching potential.

I trust that any attempt to weed out the weak will bear in mind (i) that great effort should be made to reduce to as low a level as possible the risk of appointing the unpromising in the first place, and (ii) that judging merit among teachers, both inexperienced and experienced, is a subtle, human and many-sided business.

Yours faithfully,
ROY NIBLETT,
Pinfarthings,
Stroud,
Gloucestershire.

Taxing pension funds

From Mr N. Hambley

Sir, I was astounded to hear the recent threats to the carefully contributed savings made via private individual and company pension schemes.

Financial retirement plans depend crucially on the continuation of existing tax treatment of pension contributions, if funds and benefits are to remain viable. This treatment has been stable most of this century and needs to be steady to allow any sensible pension plan for the duration of a career.

In old age it must be preferable to manage one's own deferred income plan, without assistance or expensive welfare handouts. To change the rules of fair play in the middle of the game seems unwise and undemocratic.

Pension tax changes should only be considered after lengthy debate and from a properly mandated position. Pension benefits are possibly the second most important investment during an average lifetime. I would like the time and opportunity to vote on this important and inherently long-term issue.

I am sure that millions in the private and public sectors will feel

the same when the full implications are realised.

Yours faithfully,
N. HAMBLEY,
United Automation,
271 Liverpool Road,
Birkdale,
Southport,
Merseyside.

Expelled by the Nazis

From Mr Charles W. Robinson

Sir, In Mr Roy Jenkins's contribution to your biennary booklet there is an italicised reference (p33) to the expulsion of your Berlin Correspondent, Norman Ebbutt, from Germany on August 19, 1937.

On the day before that event I wrote from my lodgings in Germany supporting the valuable contributions which your correspondents within Germany were making at that time. *The Times* printed my letter August 20, and the immediate, but not unforeseen, result was my own expulsion from that country.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES W. ROBINSON,
Flat 6,
The Cloisters,
55 King Street,
Canterbury, Kent,
January 7.

Cohen of Birkenhead, a universally acknowledged expert on the use and interpretation of EEG, stated categorically in the House of Lords in 1962 that this technique could not and should not be used to assess insensibility. As far as I am aware, improvement in technique and instrumentation since then are not such as to alter these conclusions.

At the time, Lord Cohen recommended an investigation. The Jewish community will willingly co-operate in any expert and official investigation covering all aspects of slaughter of animals.

Yours faithfully,
SYDNEY TORRANCE, Chairman,
Shechita Committee,
The Board of Deputies of British Jews,
Woburn House,
Upper Woburn Place, WC1,
January 7.



ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 15 1916

Allied landings in Gallipoli Peninsula took place on April 25 1915. British, French and Imperial troops as well as units of the Royal Naval Division were in action. The campaign was disastrous, reinforced only by the indomitable conduct of the soldiers under appalling conditions. Casualties totalled over 210,000. The evacuation was completed on January 9 1916 - a little too late.

FOOLING THE TURK

HOW GALLIPOLI WAS EVACUATED.

(From G. Ward Price)

SALONIKA, JAN. 11. The able organisation which has resulted in the evacuation of Gallipoli with just as complete success and with the same absence of loss as at Suvla and Anzac, reveals what might otherwise be the rather melancholy spectacle of the evacuation of an ill-judged enterprise.

The bloodiness of these two large and delicate military operations, of sealing away by night from an enemy with whom you have been in the closest contact for many months, might, indeed, lead one to undervalue the resource and minute care which have been put into the work. One can say now that when the withdrawal was first decided upon considerable losses were thought to be almost unavoidable. The loss of 20 per cent in killed and wounded would not have been considered surprising. It is a fact that the Turks found out what was going on and taken measures to hinder embarkation by bombarding the beaches and perhaps attacking the depleted beaches.

At Suvla, and no doubt, at Helles too, the process of evacuation was spread over about 10 nights. In the first of which all the winter stores and superfluous were unloaded. Then came the stage in which everything was shipped away except the actual food and ammunition needed for the men, and the first drafts of the latter also began to be put on board. The final stage, which at Suvla lasted for two nights, was taken up with embarking guns, transport animals and men in carefully calculated detachments.

"NORMALITY"

At one time it had been determined to fall back to the second line of defence for the last stage, but this would have given clear warning to the Turks of what was going on, and the idea was abandoned in favour of the preservation of absolute normal conditions. This latter motto was so often repeated, indeed, that one overworked Staff Officer, who received news during the critical part of the evacuation proceedings that a baby girl had been born into his household, is stated to have announced his intention to telegraph that the child was to be christened "Normality".

On the last night from 8 o'clock to 1.30am the first-line trenches were held only by picked men from each brigade. This gave about one rifle to every seven yards of front, but the detachment of the 68th Brigade, which had the whole 29th Division's front to cover, was responsible for 3,000 yards of front. There were two lines of trenches behind the first line and one or two "loops" just above Suvla Beach as well for the purpose of a last stand if necessary.

The orders were that the last men were not to leave until word reached them from the beach that all was clear, and, had the Turks done the unexpected thing and made an infantry attack, these were the men who would have covered the rearward. Altogether it was a most skilfully combined retirement, and its success has happily earned the same reward of full success at Helles and Suvla and Anzac. The force will be ready after a little rest and refitting for use in some new theatre of war, where, it is hoped, we shall meet the enemy under conditions less ideally fitted to favour his sole military talent for fighting a stubborn defensive action from behind cover.

VAT on safety

From Dr W. M. C. Allen

Sir, As a medical practitioner closely involved with horse-riding pursuits, I would bring to your notice a most bizarre anomaly in the VAT requirements.

Protective and safety head wear manufactured to BS1 standard for industrial use and for motor cycle riders is exempt from VAT. This exemption is not made for head protection for horse and pony riders.

Recently a new British Standard has been promulgated for horse and pony riders and it would seem to be a propitious moment to request that the Treasury should advise the Customs and Excise that horse riders' hats, manufactured to the BS1 standard, should enjoy the same exemption as other protective head wear.

Professional knowledge leads me to point out that any loss to the Exchequer of VAT will be more than made up for by the saving on the DHSS budget in the funding of facilities required to deal with head injuries.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ALLEN,
4 Topiary Square,
Richmond,
Surrey,
January 9.

Time's slow finger

From Mr M. A. Heap

Sir, From time to time the information given in your Anniversaries column is tantalisingly inadequate. On Saturday last (January 5) you stated that Edward the Confessor resigned 1042-66. Why did it take him so long? Surely it should merit inclusion in the record books as one of the most protracted resignations ever. Or is it that in later life he acquired the habit of resigning from virtually everything and that there is some connection with his confessorial propensities?

I suppose it is just possible that he never resigned from anything, but that he became resigned to an awful lot of things which led to his canonization. I am not an historian and would welcome more details.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. HEAP,
14 Broxwood Park,
Tottenham Wood,
Wolverhampton,
January 7.

Soviet defectors

From Count Nikolai Tolstoy

Sir, I am sorry that Mr Vladimir Bukovsky has been persuaded to make an unwittingly unjust attack on me (January 5), based as it is on a series of misconceptions. My criticisms of the handling of the return of the two Russian prisoners were in response to specific questions and I would not otherwise have volunteered them.

It is true that *The Times* reported me as having said that I had offered the hospitality of my home to the prisoners. This "offer" arose, however, from persistent questioning on the subject, at the conclusion of which I agreed that if the soldiers had nowhere else to go I would naturally not refuse them hospitality.

They did not appeal to me as President of the Soviet Prisoners in Afghanistan Rescue Committee (SPARC) and I did not (as Mr Bukovsky claims), say that they did. Neither I nor anyone else has ever made the absurd claim, tendentiously refuted by Mr Bukovsky,

that I speak for the Russian community in exile.

Finally, it seems particularly unfair to accuse SPARC of being "eager to take credit for something they did not achieve", since the explicit purpose of my criticisms was to disclaim any connection with the operation.

I hope this may end this unhappy rumour. I had to vote for someone to speak for the Russians in emigration, my list would be headed by the names of Solzhenitsyn and Bukovsky.

Yours faithfully,
NIKOLAI TOLSTOY,
Court Close,
Southmoor,
Near Abingdon,
Berkshire,
January 7.

A hero's funeral

From Mr K. N. Marshall

Sir, In your issue of January 10, 1986, reproduced last Thursday (January 6), you reported how, at Nelson's funeral, some of the crew

THE ARTS

Cinema

Darkly comic tale of human glory and infamy

Amadeus (PG)

ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

Edith and Marcel (PG)

Classic Tottenham Court Road

All of Me (15)

ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

Water (15)

Odeon Leicester Square

Constance (15)

Screen Baker Street:
Cinecenta Panton Street

When Emperor Joseph II, in Amadeus, feels the vague need to criticize Mozart's new opera *Il seraglio*, he pounces gratefully on the proffered complaint of his court director: the music, he says, has "too many notes". An unsympathetic spectator might aim the same dart at Milos Forman's spectacular film, adapted from Peter Shaffer's play by the author himself. For Mozart's notes constantly and beautifully fill the air - excerpts from operas, symphonies, wind serenades, concertos, all performed with the opulent smoothness traditionally associated with the soundtrack's orchestra, the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields. Apart from the notes, the film *Amadeus* distinguishes itself from its stage forebear by an equally prodigious display of period detail. Chandeliers, wigs and hats of all heights and colours, waistcoats, rugs, tapestries, gilt-edged cornices: Miroslav Ondricek's camera soaks up them all and cleverly conjures the exterior of eighteenth-century Vienna from a few alleys and squares in modern-day Prague.

Such musical and visual finery may suggest that *Amadeus* is nothing more than an orthodox slab of opened-out theatre, designed for the easily impressed. Not so. The Forman of the 1911 *Ragtime* might have let big budgets and prestige material cramp his style, but the Forman of *Amadeus* seems a man reborn, fully alert to the narrative's cinematic potential and wealth of human idiosyncrasies. So many films lie on the screen today looking shrivelled or inert. *Amadeus* sits there resplendent, both stately and supple, a compelling, darkly comic study of human glory and human infamy.

Shaffer's adaptation of his original play extends far beyond the routine changes needed to transfer theatre to film. Mozart's rival, the mediocre Salieri, determined to avenge God's unfair allocation of talent, still dominates, but Mozart himself is shown a more persuasive characteri-

zation: there is rather less juvenile language and horseplay, and greater evidence of musical genius. Changes have also been made in the climax: there is no stress on the possibility of Mozart being poisoned, but an enlarged emphasis on the Requiem Mass that Salieri prides from the ailing composer. Intending to claim it as his own after Mozart's anticipated death. Most important of all, Shaffer's story is now propelled through specifically cinematic means: editing techniques play a crucial part in pointing up ironies, punctuating moods, in fusing and counterpointing the musical extracts with the unfolding human drama.

Forman deliberately eschewed famous faces for his leading players, and he made the correct decision. Some might wish he had also eschewed American accents, though the ear grows accustomed to them.

Tom Hulce's bristly Mozart builds in strength and sensitivity as the film proceeds. F. Murray Abraham's Salieri impresses immediately, whether he is prating wildly in mad old age, covered in Dick Smith's excellent make-up, or snaking through the main action like an unctuous viper, tortured both by Mozart's supreme gifts and by his own sensitivity to them. Elizabeth Bergridge, as Mozart's young wife, proves a weak spot, but Forman's supporting cast is wonderfully alive with adroitly-chosen faces, from Jeffrey Jones's vacant, benign Emperor down to the meanest servants, bewildered observers of Salieri's intrigue.

Throughout *Amadeus*, one feels a guiding cinematic intelligence, making sense of the historical background, the personalities, and the music: it would be fruitless to expect the same of Claude Lelouch's *Edith and Marcel*, made in 1983. *Edith et Marcel* is Marcel Cerdan, the midsized boxer and the love of his life until his death in a plane crash in 1949. But Lelouch relates their story with so much eccentric flummery that it is better to consider them purely fictitious characters - denizens of Lelouch's idiosyncratic universe of globe-trotting people fated to fall in love in the teeth of cruel world events.

True, the real Piaf sings on the soundtrack, though that resonant, lived-in voice ill befits Lelouch's bland, pretty protegee, Evelyne Bouix. Marcel Cerdan Jr. (a last-minute replacement for the late Patrick Dewaere) at least has the advantage of looking like a boxer. Lelouch shoots in his customary giddy manner, spiralling round his leading players like a moth introduced to its very first flame. Yet it is hard not to feel a sneaking affection for this preposterous film: in a hard, cynical age, Lelouch seems one of the few remaining directors who believe passionately in the kindling spirit of romance.

All of Me, Carl Reiner's fourth comic vehicle for Steve Martin,



A tribute to Dick Smith's excellent make-up: F. Murray Abraham as Salieri prating wildly in mad old age in *Amadeus*

includes romance too, though it is of the most peculiar sort. Through a series of strained plot manoeuvres that recall Hal Roach's supernatural comedies of the Thirties, Martin, a lawyer, finds his body inhabited by the soul of Lily Tomlin, a wealthy eccentric and devotee of Eastern religions. At first the film is content to play the situation for raucous laughs, trading on the embarrassment of two sexes sharing the same body. But, once the parties start experiencing finer feelings, the film finally becomes too awkward for comfort. Martin, as before, shows a distinct talent for physical comedy: Carl Reiner shows his usual gift for muffling bright ideas.

Yet at least the film has bright ideas, which is more than can be claimed for *Water* - a comedy with all

the zing of its title, made in the Caribbean by Dick Clement and Ian Le Frenais. In television shows like *The Likely Lads* and *Porridge* this writing team based their humour on minute, affectionate observation of ordinary life: they now seem permanently shackled to clichés and national stereotypes that were none too fresh in the days of the Boulting Brothers. The story centres on a forgotten British dependency in the Caribbean; the stars include Michael Caine, Billy Connolly, the late Leonard Rossiter, Valerie Perrine and Brenda Vaccaro - showing agreeable verve as a Latin-American spiffire. If only the script, or Clement's own direction, contained as much energy. The film, incidentally, was made by the HandMade com-

pany, who recently found great success with the modest, indigenous *A Private Function*; there is a lesson to be learnt here.

Constance - a first feature by the New Zealand director Bruce Morrison - offers the supremely unympathetic tale of a movie-struck young woman in the late 1940s whose dreams become warped by conservative Auckland society and a chain of highly melodramatic incidents. Morrison's leading lady, Donogh Rees, swans around looking coldly glamorous, but the only real pleasures in this clumsy film are the garish photography of Kevin Hayward (with echoes of Forties Technicolor) and the clips of Rita Hayworth in *Gilda*. Now that was a film.

Geoff Brown

Television

Strength of characterization and plot

The second instalment of Peter Ransley's *The Price*, on Channel 4 last night, demonstrated that the pace and tension of the first instalment of this six-part psychological thriller were going to be maintained. It is worthy of its repeat showing on Sundays. What it has - which so many so-called thrillers, produced at much greater expense, lack - is characterization and plot. Mindless violence is too often

expected to compensate for their absence.

As the computer millionaire in his fifties who has taken on a young widow and her 12-year-old daughter, Peter Ransley's vulnerable face registers the bewilderment of a man who has discovered that human communication can be much more complicated than micro-processors.

Now wife and daughter are in the hands of an IRA splinter

group who are asking for £3m he has not got. Harriet Walker plays the wife. Her behaviour in the first episode made one think that she would be worth getting rid of at any price. Whether she will prove to be bitch all through or the illuminating love of her deprived husband's downhill life remains to be seen. Her broody performance is excellent.

On BBC2, that old chestnut, accents, was roasted again in *Talking Proper*, much too complicated a subject for Forty Minutes. Only three per cent of the population, we were told, uses what pronunciation pundits call "RP" - received pronunciation.

Graham Pountain, of the BBC Pronunciation Unit, said that what people wanted (did he mean expected?) to hear. Professor A. C. Gimson, editor of *Everyman's English Pronouncing Dictionary*, recalled that Wilfred Pickles as a wartime announcer had been disas-

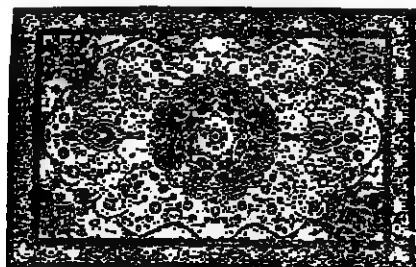
trously received, even by Yorkshire people. News last week when articulated with regional overtones.

The actor Peter Bowles mourned the loss of his Nottingham accent, "the essence of identity" at drama school. By forcing it he thought, he had been acting a role in the theatre and also a role in life. Professor John Honey, of Leicester Polytechnic, looked to a time, in sixty years or so, when the process of ironing out accents, which he perceived to be under way, would be complete.

Janet Street-Porter, whose cockney accent would demand a very heavy iron indeed, thought that what accent-removers wanted was a "nothing accent". People thought her thick, she said, because of her cockney. "I know I am not thick. I am bright", she asserted. Right, too, I thought, on this occasion at least.

Dennis Hackett

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Dance in the United States

Poetic fire and fury

Whatever else 1985 portends it is going to be a good year for Romeo. And for Juliet. And, for that matter, it should not prove too disastrous for Prokofiev, because 1985 is the year in which ballet companies throughout the world seem to be taking a fresh look at Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers and Prokofiev's ballet score. The all-American battle for a definitive *Romeo and Juliet* will reach a climax in the spring, when the Joffrey Ballet and American Ballet Theatre - both with combative versions by different British choreographers, Cranko for Joffrey and MacMillan for ABT - are destined to fight it out, toe to toe, during their seasons at Lincoln Center.

First off the launching balcony was the Joffrey production, which has just been staged at Washington's Kennedy Center. This is conceivably the best of the current versions. Originally created for the Stuttgart Ballet in 1962 - Cranko had staged a first draft at La Scala, Milan, four years earlier - it has travelled the world. Of all the better-known realizations of Prokofiev's score it is the one which most amply embodies the ponderous Renaissance magnificence of the 1940 interpretation, so infused with the principles of Fokinean dance-drama, by Leonid Lavrovsky that was prepared in Leningrad with the composer's collaboration, with the pure dance interest that characterized the Western world's own first *Romeo*, Sir Frederick Ashton's version for the Royal Danish Ballet in 1955, and, it seems, soon to be resuscitated by London Festival Ballet.

Cranko's now classic *Romeo and Juliet* is all fire, fury and poetry. He was successful in catching the whirlwind speed of Shakespeare's action, as well as the ardour of the young lovers. The Verona street scenes are packed with vigour, the grand ballroom niceties not disgraced by the Lavrovsky staging from which they have been adapted, and the love duets capture an enraptured simplicity that recalls the Ashton. Visually the production is graced by the grandiose scenery and costumes designed by Jürgen Rose. Rose was its original Stuttgart magician, but the particular version used by Joffrey - and it is Rose at his best - is that designed for the Vienna Opera Ballet.

The Joffrey Ballet - a mere 40 dancers - could easily have looked over-extended against Cranko's imposing canvas, but with the use of the company's

undergraduate troupe, the Joffrey II Dancers, and the judicious manipulation of extras, the group seems impressively large. It goes to show that 40 dancers, with a little help from their friends, can almost rival the Bolshoi. The production has been most authoritatively staged, with the help of Benesh notation, by George Tsinaguidis, a distinguished Cranko répétiteur, and, on the whole, it has never been so well performed, for as an ensemble the Joffrey Ballet is a notch or two above the Stuttgart dancers.

The principals will doubtless mature in time. For this first Washington excursion the company showed two pairs of lovers, Patricia Miller (name-sake of the Cranko dancer of the late Forties with the Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet) matched with James Canfield, and the very young Dawn Caccamo together with Glenn Edgerton. Miss Miller, with her rapt Botticelli face and her delicate filigree dancing, is a far distance from Cranko's archetypal Juliet, Marcia Hayde, whose more overtly passionate approach came more naturally to the enraptured if still tentative Miss Caccamo.

The prognosis for the Romeo is not quite so rosy, although both partner stalwartly, and Edgerton in particular dances with stylish classic gusto. But Canfield is a trifle too gauche and humourless, and Edgerton also seems overwhelmed by Verona.

The British choreographer most closely associated with the Joffrey is, of course, Sir Frederick Ashton. For its own tribute this season the Joffrey Ballet is giving a number of celebratory all-Ashton galas, and started with a couple during this Kennedy Center engagement.

The chosen programme offered a shrewdly comprehensive view of Ashton's versatility and strengths - opening with *Les Patineurs*, ending with *A Wedding Bouquet*, and taking in *Illuminations* and *Monotones II* on the way, all in agreeably idiomatic stagings. *Les Patineurs*, approaching its own half-century, is among the most delightful of ballets - a Dickensian skating scene that extols classic virtuosity with a beguiling, unaffected charm. The young Joffrey dancers, led here by Carl Corry as the whizzing Blue Skater, rose to both its technical challenges and genre opportunities with an English lack of fuss.

A report on the MacMillan follows later.

Clive Barnes

Concert

Anthem for a new musical world

Stockhausen

Barbican/Radio 3

It had to be *Hymnen*. The BBC Barbican Stockhausen festival has been so mentally galvanizing that it needed something out of the ordinary for its grand finale and *Hymnen* was the obvious choice. As Richard Toop reminded us in the programme, *Hymnen* was the work to which all Stockhausen's other music of the 1960s had been tending: an immense canvas of electronic sound on which fragments from national anthems stand out as flags on a new and marvellous landscape.

This is the goal of so much that we have been hearing these past nine days: the world music of *Telemusik*, the live electronic transformation of instruments and voices in *Mixtur* and *Mikrophonie II*, the shortwave universe of *Spiral*, the synthesis of familiar and unfamiliar that goes back to *Gesang der Jünglinge*.

But at the same time *Hymnen* carries within itself the seeds of so much that was to come. This is the baptism of the epic Stockhausen, the first work destined to occupy an evening and thereby the ancestor of his current opera cycle. It also offers glimpses of works just over the horizon: pure overtones presaging *Stimmung*, and in the orchestral section a sense as in *Trans* of screens woven by the strings to cover and complicate what woodwind and brass are trying to explain.

This orchestral music, played during the third of the work's four "regions", had not previously been performed in this country, which was another good reason for putting *Hymnen* on the programme. Yet another, and surely decisive, was the fact that Stockhausen has now trained a new quartet to play with the tape, as he said on this page a fortnight ago.

The work is thus restored to the living repertoire after a gap of a decade, and, if the new players do not yet swim through *Hymnen* as readily as their forebears, then certainly they live up to Stockhausen's current estimation of the work as opera. Back in the 1960s he had suggested that it could accommodate a libretto for operatic performance, but now he presents it as opera in its own right. Act I, consisting of the

first two "regions", is done with the four white-shirted musicians caught in pools of clear light, while orange shines on the great gong that is the world at the centre of the stage. At the end the percussionist taps the gong and suddenly the four rise up in their places.

For Act II there is no special lighting or action: we are at an orchestral concert, though one where the most dominant and disruptive player, the tape, is invisible. Then the final act returns to the location of the first. The climax comes when the tape begins to rain great showers of glissandos, and the players gather behind the gong to rattle out their amplified messages. When the storm is over they emerge, and look around curiously at the new territory to which the music has brought them, the territory of a new consciousness such as appeared at the same time, if on a more vulgar level, at the end of Arthur C. Clarke's 2001.

But, if the work is to seem an optimistic model of human evolution, then one needs throughout to be pointed away from the banal subject-matter, the national anthems, towards the magnificent processes and sonic inventions that Stockhausen projects around them. One problem with Wednesday night's performance was that the live quartet so often pointed up the obvious.

The superbly timed arrival of the German anthem, for instance, gained nothing from being picked out by the piano and accompanied by a side drum. Similarly the two Stockhausen sons, Markus and Simon, seemed when they were playing synthesizers most frequently to be imitating rather than flying with the tape. All four players found a closer corporate sense and stronger individual contributions during their slow, tolling introduction to the fourth region, when the tape went silent.

The orchestral region, with Peter Eötvös conducting the BBC Symphony, showed still more fully the power of the live-recorded mix, perhaps most of all when electronic were engulfed in instrumental sonorities, or when the tape stimulated such an Ivesian hubbub that it was almost drowned. Here *Hymnen* truly was the anthem of a new musical world.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre

The Wind in the

Willows

Sadler's Wells

Arriving at Sadler's Wells at the end of a two-month tour which, I fear, will have put many children off Kenneth Graham for life, this Triumph Apollo-Plymouth Theatre Royal production should excite the remorse of any one who has ever complained about the A. A. Milne version.

The new adaptation is the work of Willis Hall and Denis King, who offer a cheerful show that succeeds in discarding everything that gives life to the original story. The first casualty is the plot, cut to ribbons to make space for Mr King's numbers (none of them, to Grahame's lyrics) and quantities of gag-factory material from Mr Hall.

The first joke is the sight of Rat rowing on in a dinghy called H.M.S. Rodent. Badger makes a 10-second appearance to establish his existence, and the lights darken to knife chords at mention of the Wild Wood. We then cut straight to Toad Hall and the canary-coloured cart shortly before it rolls slowly off stage, still clearly visible during the alleged road crash. The animals decide to take Toad in hand, thus giving Mr Hall the pretext for taking another short cut and dispatching Mole, solo, to seek Badger in the Wild Wood.

Whatever the adapters and their director, Roger Redfern, add, they get wrong. The mock-melodrama of the court scene is

ruined by a stone-deaf judge who mistakes the Wild Wood for do-podera. Toad finds himself sharing a cell with a skeleton, presumably neglected by the jailer's daughter, who now immediately supplies the new prisoner with an escape kit. Also the balance between animal and human life is disrupted by putting Rat and Co into heavy masks (the least disguised is Melvyn Hayes's Mole, who comes on with cap and blackened features like a 'tiny burglar'), and then equipping Toad Hall with footmen in power suits.

Donald Hewlett places Badger securely among the gruff-mannered landed gentry and gives a faithful account of the character, even if he is obliged to emerge from hibernation and sing in the snow. Mr Hayes and Patrick Cargill's Rat offer only glib comic performances, lacking in animal pantomime and with no trace of the affection that John Warner and (perhaps an unfair comparison) Richard Goulden brought to the parts in the Milne version.

If there is a clue to what has blighted this venture, it is the casting of Terry Scott as Toad. The dialogue omits all reference to Toad's noble ancestry; all we get is a dreadful song from Rat saying that "from his school-days, he fell into stagnant pool ways". What Mr Scott offers instead is a pantomime dancer's bulbous figure in lime-green jodhpurs with a knee-level crotch, invading the stalls with his motor horn and taking to his sick-bed as if preparing for the haunted room sketch.

Irving Wardle

LONDON ARTS CHOICE

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Derek Harris sees the start of a new era as professional engineers face the challenge of the Eighties

Growth of a materials society

A new force in professional engineering emerges today with the launch of the Institute of Metals, the result of a merger between the Institution of Metallurgists and The Metals Society.

It is the culmination of changes which go back 115 years and is likely to provoke more. From another engineering discipline one of the leading figures in the engineering profession said: "I believe the new Institute could, given time, be the fifth force in the profession. And it would be logical if it grew into a body covering all materials, no doubt involving a few more mergers on the way."

To be the fifth force means the Institute would win a place with the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Institution of Chemical Engineers.

The Institute's new leaders are adamantly not pressing for further mergers but they do have in their sights not only metals but other materials which are proving the big technological growth areas. These include ceramics, polymers and adhesives. The only materials excluded under the Institute's Royal Charter, secured at the beginning of this month, are natural and synthetic fibres used in textiles.

The new technologies are a challenge to the Institute. So are fresh developments in the older metals technologies like advanced welding techniques employed in the fabrication of offshore structures. It has to forge closer links with industry if it is to help British companies stay in the vanguard of progress and so secure - and increase - jobs for the Institute's professional engineer members.

It means the Institute has to make sure the preparation of new generations of professional engineers is sufficiently thorough and widely based. Ensuring that professional engineers keep up to scratch throughout their careers is probably an even bigger educational challenge.

Professional engineers in the metals field are no strangers to challenge. In 1869 a group of ironmasters formed the Iron & Steel Institute when, spurred on by foreign competition, they realised the value of exchanging technical information and expertise. The old Institute of Metals followed in 1908, catering for non-ferrous metals.

Both bodies attracted an international membership. It was the Iron and Steel Institute which sponsored the foundation in 1945 of the Institution of Metallurgists. While the Iron & Steel Institute and the old Institution of Metals were learned societies the Institution of Metallurgists became the qualifying body in the field, laying down the criteria for membership by individuals.

The success of the Institution as a qualifying body led to a Royal Charter in 1975 and two years later it became the sixteenth corporation member of the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI). This took it to the top of the professional tree. It had the right to nominate its members for Chartered Engineer (C Eng) status. That right has continued with the formation of the Engineering Council, successor to the CEI.

The Institution of Metallurgists in its turn sponsored the formation of the Institute of Metallurgical Technicians to take care of academic and training standards of individual technicians. Last year the technician body came back under the direct wing of the Institution of Metallurgists.

'It was then that arts began to emerge as sciences'

In 1974 the Iron & Steel Institute had meanwhile merged with the old Institution of Metals to form the Metals Society. It was a response to change because as the theory of metals began to be better understood the distinction between ferrous and non-ferrous metals became blurred. Many processes in the two fields which had been something of an art started emerging as a science.

A hallmark of the Metals Society was its open structure. Non-engineers involved in the metals business could, and did, hold office. One president was a Dutchman.

This open structure was a strength in widening the value of the society to industry at large. But it presented a difficulty for a merger with the Institution of Metallurgists. In other engineering disciplines attempts to bring together a professional qualifying body and a learned society has usually meant the end of the open structure typical of the learned society.



In the heat of a steelworks, and right, Sir Hugh Ford, president of the Institute of Metals, in the Heavy Testing laboratory at Imperial College, London

The Institute of Metals believes it has solved this difficulty, according to its secretary, Sir Geoffrey Ford.

Sir Geoffrey, who was director and chief executive of the Metals Society for nearly four years, said: "We have a constitution which allows the appointment of a president who is not a professional engineer. We have taken great care on working out a constitution which gives equality of opportunity. But we have also ensured that the institute remains clearly in the hands of professional engineers."

He added: "This is the way bodies like ours have to go, serving the whole of the metals community and providing industry with what it needs."

Some past mergers in the professional engineering field have arisen largely through financial problems. No such

stringency lies behind the Institute merger, according to Sir Geoffrey.

The Institution of Metallurgists, with its more substantial membership, had a firm subscription base to its activities. But the Metals Society had the advantage of the substantial earnings from a computerized data base, Metals Information.

'One cannot any longer see metals in isolation'

operated jointly with the American Society of Metals and owned on a 50-50 basis. It is the world's largest data base.

The idea of forming the new Institute was first discussed near the turn of the decade. It led to the setting up in 1981 of a working party to tackle merger details. Sir Geoffrey said: "There was a growing recognition in a philosophical sense

that it was not very sensible to have separated the two types of activity, the professional qualifying body on one hand and learned society on the other."

He added: "The putting of the two together means a stronger body than simply the sum of the two parts." For the professional engineer it also means one subscription where the harder choice before was whether to invest in two.

There had been a tendency to opt only for the Institution because of its importance to them as a qualifying body.

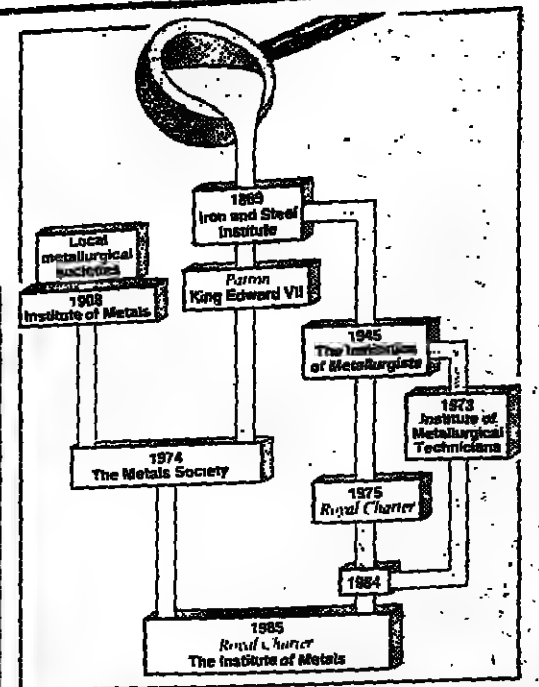
Sir Hugh Ford, the Institute's first president, said: "Fragmentation of the materials world has been something of a stumbling block in this country to the rapid development of the new techniques and technologies and the emergence of real professionals. We are trying with this merger particularly to meet the urgent need for

continuing education and learning for professional engineers and so serve industry which is dependent on them."

He added: "We now have a strong basis on which to go forward. We have to find a proper relationship based on co-operation with the various bodies in materials technology such as ceramics, plastics and rubber. One cannot any longer consider metals in isolation."

It meant collaboration with all those in the materials field from big institutions like the Mechanicals and Electricals to the more specialised smaller bodies like the Institute of Ceramics and the Plastics & Rubber Institute, said Sir Hugh.

An existing attempt at co-operation has been the Materials Forum which brings all the interested bodies together in regular meetings. It was Sir Hugh who was the key figure behind its founding.



Sir Hugh: brilliant Fellow

Sir Hugh Ford, first president of the new Institute of Metals, has had a brilliant career in engineering and engineering education. He is chairman of Sir Hugh Ford and Associates, the consulting engineers whose specialties include high-pressure engineering and work on offshore structures.

Early in his career, when he was a research and design engineer with ICI at Northwich, Cheshire, he was one of the four responsible for the erection of the first commercial polyethylene plant in Britain. In industry he was subsequently connected with a number of companies, including being technical director of the Paterson Engineering Group. He is now a director of RD Projects, specialists in microprocessor controls, robo-

tics and machine tools, and holds directorships in internal combustion engine research, welding, cryogenics and technological innovation investment. For many years he was chairman of the Admiralty Research Committee on steels for shipyard use. He has been an emeritus professor of mechanical engineering at Imperial College, of which he was Pro-Rector from 1978 to 1980 and is a senior research Fellow.

Sir Hugh is a past president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and of the old Institute of Metals and president of the Welding Institute.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, was a founding Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, the most senior professional engineering organization.

The Institute of Metals: A powerful new voice for those involved in Metals and Materials

The Metals Society and the Institution of Metallurgists have come together to form a new unified body - The Institute of Metals.

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With an initial membership of some 13,000 individuals, with direct links to all overseas metallurgical societies, and with members in some 70 countries the new Institute will be able to speak with a powerful voice.

From the beginning of the Industrial Revolution up to the present day, many of the most important technical and technological developments have resulted from skills perfected in Britain. The contribution made to this country's wealth and international standing over many years by those engaged, directly or indirectly, in the production, treatment

and use of ferrous and non-ferrous metals is well-known.

New methods and new engineering materials are emerging, and in a world whose natural resources are becoming increasingly scarce it is imperative that we learn how to exploit those raw materials which remain available to us. The breadth of membership of The Institute of Metals and its depth of expertise will enable it to play its part to the full in this crucial task.

One of the primary functions of the Institute will be the creation of channels for the exchange of information - at national and international level - on all aspects of metallurgical science and materials technology.

It will also serve the interests of its membership and the community by the establishment and maintenance of the highest standards of professional competence and will encourage the study of the science, technology and use of metals and related materials in all areas of engineering.

Under the membership structure, which has the approval of the Engineering Council, certain categories of membership are open only to fully qualified individuals. However, the Institute encourages everyone connected with the metals community, irrespective of professional qualifications, to participate fully in its affairs.

Scientific advance is bringing about the introduction of new industries and technologies and changing and developing traditional ones.

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LAUGOLITA

A new status to woo graduates

All other leading professional bodies in the field of metals is concerned with the status of the professional engineer and how this can be improved by positive action at the institutional level. Bryn Gibson, one of the two deputy secretaries of the Institute of Metals and responsible for the professional affairs division, said: "Mention engineer and too many people still think of somebody changing washers on taps or taking spanner to nuts and bolts."

But he believes the situation is changing, with a greater awareness among students of at any rate the best known professional engineer grade, the Chartered Engineer. They are the ones who can add C.Eng. behind their names.

In the ranks of professional engineers there are three main layers. From the bottom up there are the engineering technicians (Eng. Tech.), the technicians (T. Eng.) and then the chartered engineers. With the Institute of Metals chartered engineers need an honours degree from a university whose engineering courses have been approved and accredited. The Institute of Metals carries out accreditations under the aegis of the Engineering Council which is anxious to keep standards high.

Appropriate academic and training standards are similarly set for the two technician grades, usually gained through polytechnics.

There is a fourth, most senior layer - the Fellows of an institution, at the top of the tree.

Mr Gibson said: "Youngsters are catching on to the chartered engineer. There is greater appreciation at the school level of the relevance of a chartered engineer. But while it is getting better known it will obviously take time still to achieve the sort of perception that, say, the chartered accountant enjoys."

He believes there are special problems in the metals and materials area. Metallurgy is too often regarded as a dead subject. While British Steel has been taking 15 to 20 per cent of metals graduates each year, and is still sponsoring many through university, the numbers have been reducing. The Institute will be pointing out other avenues that are open in addition to the steel route.

Another problem has been the number of good metallurgists coming on to the labour market, said Mr Gibson. They are mostly between 35 and 50 years old. He went on: "There are signs we have turned the corner on this. For anybody with a good track record the opportunities are there now."

This view is backed up by the increasing evidence that manufacturing industry production is on the upturn.

There are now more job prospects in the newer technologies involving non-metals. To cater for this the Institute is looking to more courses covering non-metal sectors.

Sir Geoffrey Ford, secretary of the Institute of Metals, is backing a drive to attract more graduates. He said: "We should try to attract younger graduates. We can now offer a single body to provide young people with what they want in professional qualifying activities and continuing career formation."

There are rather more than 1,500 undergraduates in the materials field in the United Kingdom at any one time and the Institute has about 1,000 of them enrolled as students.

There is a nominal student registration fee of £6 a year which buys the usual Institute membership advantages with reduced rates for instructional meetings and publications. Subscription rates for other Institute members range mostly from £22 a year to £50 (Fellows pay the most).

Membership of the Institute is now just over 13,000 but other affiliations bring the number of those involved with the Institute to around 14,000. There are probably fewer than 1,500 who have been members of both the Institution of Metallurgists and the Metals Society. To the Institute are coming around 10,500 from the Institution and some 2,500 from the Society.

Mr Gibson expects the number of chartered engineers within the Institute to rise by around 1,000 comparatively quickly. It is likely that some of the old Metals Society members will qualify for chartered status. It would then mean the Institute's chartered membership would rise to about 7,500, possibly putting the Institute ahead then of the Institution of Chemical Engineers.



The man on top: Sir Geoffrey Ford, secretary of the Institute of Metals, at the Fulmer Research Institute.

The big drive for honours

There has been mounting concern in Britain that educational and training standards for professional engineers have been lagging behind those of their chief international competitors like West Germany, France and Japan.

The Engineering Council has now put its weight behind bringing all the engineering disciplines up to higher standards such as the honours degree level for chartered engineers.

In the metals and materials sector the honours degree has long been demanded. That means there is a three year academic course. But an additional two years of approved training is also called for.

Mr Bryn Gibson deputy secretary of the Institute of Metals, said: "Essentially it is a five year course. The French tend to understate our qualifications when they say that we

have only a three year course in Britain whereas abroad the engineer has a four year course."

He added: "With a reasonable A level basis - we have preference for a chemistry A level as well as physics and mathematics - the three year honours degree course with the right materials structure seems the right way, with a design project included."

But so much is now being packed into three year courses that a borderline is near where a four year course might seem the only option, said Mr Gibson.

He added: "One problem is that moving towards four years means putting up industry's cost at a time when perhaps that is not what industry wants."

But the Institute is particularly anxious that academic courses remain relevant to the needs of the day. Discussions at regional level have been started

with local employers at which heads of universities and polytechnics are present. Mr Gibson said: "We are asking the industrialists informally whether the content of courses is right and whether graduate standards are right for them."

The Engineering Council is looking to more being done for technician engineers and engineering technicians as part of the drive to improve standards. This is a tricky issue because in some disciplines there are separate technician bodies while in others a single institution covers all the grades.

The Institute believes the integrated approach makes it easier to develop bridges so that those at technician level can more easily move on to chartered status. But it has had the problem that its by-laws forbid a council vote other than to corporate members. The technicians are not corporate

members. Yet the Engineering Council clearly wants technicians to have a direct vote.

The Institute approach adopted from the Institution of Metallurgists is to give the technicians a voice on the main council by co-opting on to it the chairman and vice-chairman of the technicians' own key liaison committee. Additionally three corporate members are elected to the council by the non-corporate members.

Sir Hugh Ford, the Institute's president, commented: "We have to resolve the whole relationship between chartered engineers, technician engineers and engineering technicians. We are very keen that technicians should be within the main scope because of the great reliance of chartered metallurgists and materials engineers on their supporting staff of technicians."

Sir Geoffrey's RAF record

Sir Geoffrey Ford, secretary of the Institute of Metals, is not related to the institute president. It is coincidence they are both Fords and Knights. Sir Geoffrey had a long career in the Royal Air Force of which in 1978 he became Chief Engineer. But he has for many years been active in the affairs of the engineering profession, particularly within the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) and the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI).

He retired from the RAF in 1981 after 39 years' service, and became that year director and

chief executive of The Metals Society.

In the RAF he went from pilot officer to Air Marshal. For three years in the early 1970s he was chief engineer of RAF Strike Command. He was later Director General of Engineering and Supply Management at the Ministry of Defence (Air).

A chartered engineer, he is a Fellow of the IEE. He has served at the IEE on its council, public affairs board and executive board. He was also involved in committee work at the CEI before that body was superseded by the Engineering Council.

How the council lines up

The Engineering Council is composed of 51 professional bodies, broken into five groups. The new institute is in group four.

Group One
Institution of Mechanical Engineers
Institution of Production Engineers
Bureau of Engineer Surveyors
Institute of Engineers and Technicians
Institution of Engineering Designers
Institution of Mechanical and General Technician Engineers
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Group Two
Institution of Civil Engineers
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Highway and Traffic Technicians Association
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Institution of Plumbing
Institution of Agricultural Engineers
Institution of Highways and Transportation
Institution of Public Health Engineers
Institution of Works and Highways Management
Society of Civil Engineering Technicians

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Institution of Public Lighting Engineers
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Group Four
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Institution of Energy
Institution of Gas Engineers
Institution of Mining Engineers
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For further details please contact: Professor S B Argent, Department of Metallurgy, University of Sheffield, Mappin Street, Sheffield S1 1JD. Tel: (0742) 76555.

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Davy McKee
TAKING METALS TECHNOLOGY TO THE WORLD

Why steel has the edge in the age of plastics

There have been so many new developments in the metal and materials field that it is easy to believe that traditional materials like steel will be overtaken rapidly.

Aluminium and plastics could, it might be argued, make lighter and fuel-efficient cars, and carbon fibre reinforced polymers might do the same for aircraft. Ceramics could be used to make engines more efficient. And why not stick things together with industrial adhesives instead of welding them?

This line of thought finds little favour with Dr Eric Duckworth, managing director of the Fulmer Research Institute at Stoke Poges in Berkshire. Fulmer was founded in 1946 as an independent research organization specializing in materials and metals and is now owned by the Institute of Physics. It is a leader in the field.

Steel is by far the metal most used despite the competition from aluminium and plastics, and in construction from cement. Until the recession's impact on steel production its growth had been relatively undisturbed by a rather steeper growth pattern in aluminium.

Plastics growth has been the most spectacular but now there are question marks over how long this will go on and there are signs of a levelling off.

Dr Duckworth's main argument is that new materials best succeed in fresh and expanding markets where the investment needed to equip for their use is the most appealing. In a mature industry a switch to new materials and techniques can mean massive spending on re-equipment.

He believes steel will remain a major constructional metal for buildings, bridges and tunnels. He said: "Steel is produced in such large quantities and it is so cheap comparatively."

Steel is also fighting back against competitors like aluminium and plastics by achieving its own technological advances. Stronger and much lighter steel products are being produced mainly by adding small amounts of elements like niobium and vanadium to produce high-strength low alloy steels, which are about half as strong again as ordinary mild steel.

In the vehicle industry lightness is crucial because of the need to cut fuel

consumption costs. But in the car industry, a mature one, it would mean enormous investment to switch to aluminium or plastic body shells for large volume production, argues Dr Duckworth. He said: "Aluminium is ten times the price of steel and one third the density. That still leaves a volume price factor of three against aluminium which is difficult to overcome. To replace the steel body shell aluminium or plastics would have to produce a shell that is no more expensive than steel. It is still roughly the same story in engines."

The rust problem with steel is being tackled by zinc coating and other methods.

Body shells using the steel alternatives are only likely to appear on low-volume cars, he believes. He also pointed out that when plastics started to replace zinc-based diecast parts, such as carburettor housings, the diecasters successfully fought back with much thinner walled castings. He added: "Today's cast iron cylinder blocks would be unrecognisable by the cast iron founders of 50 years ago. The technology has advanced to make a much thinner and lighter casting."

Aluminium has made great impact in the expanding aircraft market where its lightness was also more crucial. A more recent example of its success is in the double glazing market. But in new houses most of the basic windows fitted are still either in steel or wood because that market is a mature traditional one, Dr Duckworth said.

The canning industry presents a similar picture, he argued. Aluminium and plastics have made massive inroads in the fast-expanding beverages sector. It is the opposite in food canning, a relatively mature market. Again technology advance in the traditional material has helped, with low-tin steels being developed and thinner steel lightening the cans.

The rapid expansion of supermarkets, with their special packing needs, was another area where both aluminium and plastic wrappings were able to score.

The argument that mature markets tend to stay with traditional materials is not necessarily all-embracing. Toothpaste tubes were once made of lead tin alloy but now plastics rule.



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A safer surgeon's glove is in full production by LRC Products in Britain thanks to one of the many current advances in materials technology which are bringing changes to a wide range of industries from electronics to welding.

LRC called in the Yarsley Technical Centre, which is part of Fulmer Research Institute, the materials and metals research centre owned by the Institute of Physics. Yarsley specialises in polymers, which includes rubber, and has developed expertise in thin films, membranes, adhesives and coatings.

The basis of the work were polymeric gels called hydrogels. Their permeability to small molecules like water make them a useful biomaterial acceptable in contact with the human body. Yarsley had previously been involved in using them to develop contact lenses. Another application had been for non-drag anti-fouling paint for ships. The latest surgeon's rubber gloves are now coated inside with the hydrogels. These eliminate the need for sterilisation which was used as a lubricant when a surgeon changes his gloves during an operation and has been known to cause some post-operative problems.

Ceramic engine?

Ceramics are used widely in electronics, including the building of integrated circuit panels. Ceramics conduct heat quickly and make good cutting tools. Even in some of the older applications in ceramics, like bricks, there have been technological changes to meet the fresh demands of heavy industries like steel.

A Japanese-developed system of super-micronization of ceramics is expected to extend their uses. They are making possible new high efficiency gas turbine engines, and the development of ceramic engines for cars is being explored. Many electronics applications are foreseen, with magnetic tapes and even artificial bones. The development of heat-resistant tiles among the new ceramics has made possible the re-use of space rockets. Factories in space could create new ceramics of high purity.

Better joints

Industrial structural adhesives are rapidly being taken up, particularly in the growth sectors of consumer goods, because of the potential of adhesive bonding as a fast, cheap method of assembly which lends itself to automation. They could be a growing alternative to methods like riveting, welding and brazing.

The technique is used in aircraft where the lighter joint is a big factor. But surfaces have to be ultra-clean, which means creating special conditions in factories. Even in car factories the use of robots makes it easier to create such conditions and adhesives have been used to supplement spot welding, allowing a reduction in the number of spot welds although not normally their entire elimination.

Danger signals

Sensors or electronic indicators, are rapidly replacing mechanical devices and are also

making possible monitoring of a wide range of conditions in fluids and gases even in the most hostile chemical environments. Recent research includes the detection and extraction of water from fuel, the assessment of new fuels, and the identification of pollutants through infra-red absorption. A warning of dangerous concentrations of gas can be given by an infra-red beam tuned to one wavelength.

Shaping up

A new trend is towards producing components by shape forming. In powder technology metallic or ceramic powders are subjected to temperature and pressure to produce a shape which is not in traditional liquid form but as an intermediate, thixotropic stage between liquid and solid. An alternative is metal injection, where there is a flow into a mould rather like a polymer. Just as plastics used injection moulding to cut costs metals could benefit in the same way.

Stronger welds

At one time welds were weaker than the structures welded. Now ways have been found to control the welding process which, together with a right blend of alloys, produces in most cases a weld that is stronger than the main structure. It has made it possible to weld for extreme severe conditions such as the met-by offshore platforms in the North Sea or in processing conditions like those found in nuclear power stations.

We are not in the takeover business, says president

The professional engineering bodies connected with the Engineering Council will soon be down to 50 and still presenting a confusing kaleidoscope of interests. A further turn of that kaleidoscope will follow the emergence of the Institute of Metals.

There is already speculation that the strength of the new body will make it a likely catalyst in mergers but Sir Hugh Ford, first president of the Institute of Metals, said: "Mergers might broadly make a lot of sense but I do not see any in the immediate future in and around our sector. The new

Institute is certainly not in the takeover business."

Sir Hugh's main aim is to get the Institute working cohesively. Then there are a number of broad objectives. One is to become more relevant to the industries in which its professional members are active. That could mean organizational changes to make it effective.

He also wants to develop the standards of excellence and professionalism of Institute members. It particularly means helping engineers to improve standards throughout a career.

Sir Hugh added: "Another objective will be to develop the

Institute in its relations with the other big institutions concerned with materials and materials engineering, particularly the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Institution of Electrical Engineers."

The Institute would also be seeking collaboration with bodies in related materials fields, particularly the Institution of Ceramics, the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy and the Institution of Chemical Engineers.

A key relationship will be with the Institution of Chemical Engineers, which has emerged as one of the more powerful influences in the profession.

At one time it was the grouping known as the Three Presidents which wielded the greatest influence. These were the presidents of the three most senior and powerful bodies - the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Institution of Electrical Engineers. The grouping became the Four Presidents as the Chemical Engineers joined in 1964.

The civil, mechanical and electrical are the key bodies in each of three of the five groupings into which the currently 51 professional bodies have been separated. The fourth cluster, and the largest with 16 members, covers process engineering - with the Chemicals the



Vital development work is done at electron microscopes like this as rapid developments in materials technology create new opportunities for metallurgists and metals scientists

key body - and materials in which the Institute of Metals will now be pre-eminent.

Until the Institute of Metals merged it was the Institution of Metallurgists which was the senior chartered body on the materials side. The Metals Society, now merged with the Metallurgists to create the Institute of Metals, was not in the cluster because it functioned as a learned society.

The 51 professional bodies operating with the Engineering Council are expected to be reduced to 50 by the projected

merger between the Institution of Production Engineers and the Mechanicals.

The new Institute and the Institution of Chemical Engineers will not be dissimilar in membership size. Chemicals have 16,000 members, about 2,000 more than the new Institute. Some materials engineers have belonged to both the Metallurgists and the Metals Society and now pay only one subscription. The Chemicals membership is up by a third over six years, as chemicals have burgeoned as a sector.

The decline of manufacturing industry and other sectors using metals has led to a decline in job opportunities for metals scientists and metallurgists. But prospects could now be opening up again because of rapid developments in materials technology, particularly in the non-metal areas like polymers and ceramics. The Institute certainly expects its chartered membership to grow.

Among the 15 chartered institutions the Chemicals and the Metallurgists - senior professional engineering bodies - have had fewest members belonging to more than one professional organization.

Both the Chemicals and the Metallurgists have demanded an honours degree and have had largely similar requirements for academic courses leading to chartered status for the individual.

What remains to be seen is how far the Chemicals and the new Institute will join hands to give group four something like the muscle of the Big Three.

The Chemicals and the Metallurgists have shared chairmanship of meetings of group four on a consecutive basis and this looks like continuing.

The other question is whether the Institute will earn a place in the top councils of the profession, turning the Four Presidents into the Five. It could be only a matter of time.

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Embarrassing incentive for Dunlop chairman

On paper, Sir Michael Edwards has gained £3.5 million before income tax through the reorganisation of Dunlop shares at 31p yesterday against the 14p at which his 20.9 million share options were announced earlier in the week. All sorts of arguments can be advanced to justify his good fortune.

The fact remains that British managers will surely live to regret Sir Michael's instant windfall unless this favourable deal for Dunlop's new chairman and the two executive directors he brought with him from ICL is adjusted before the Dunlop reconstruction proposals are offered for shareholders approval next month.

Years of reasoning, evangelising and persuasion have gone into changed attitudes towards paying managers. It is now generally recognized that the good ones should be properly rewarded for the effort, strain and career risks they take, particularly in pulling round an important company like Dunlop which has suffered from years of bad management and City neglect.

Moreover, it has now become acceptable that managers should be given both the incentive and the opportunity to build up capital like a self-employed owner through share options, which bring rich rewards if they make profits for shareholders. Schemes on a more modest scale than Sir Michael's have now been given favourable tax treatment: gains are for example treated as capital rather than income.

It is one thing to give incentives for success. It is pushing the case when managers like Sir Michael receive such generous capital options - Sir Michael and his colleagues will also take part in an Inland Revenue approved scheme - as well as substantial salaries (£152,000 a year for Sir Michael) and protection when things do not turn out as intended. The former Dunlop directors received £879,000 for instance and Sir Michael had an excellent handshake for a few months' work before the takeover of his former company ICL. To give instant gains before the job is begun is going too far.

It would be quite wrong to pillory Sir Michael personally. Several others among the new breed of "star managers", able to dictate their own terms, have proved their powers of negotiation in their own remuneration packages. Sir Michael's gain is at the expense of the banks who are rescuing Dunlop rather than small shareholders, who also have a right to subscribe for shares at 14p (apart from US holders who should be selling as fast as they can). Moreover, it is an unforeseen accident and to some extent an illusion. A Dunlop share with the right to buy at 14p is worth more than the same share will be once the capital reconstruction has gone through. The high opening price was not anticipated.

None the less, overnight riches, however illusory, make a bad precedent. It would, in the long run, be better for the reputation of Sir Michael, his colleagues and managers in general if the option price was adjusted nearer Dunlop's suspension price of 25p or the price of Dunlop shares after the rights issues have gone through.

One way to lift PSBR gloom

Graduates of the Machiavellian school of public finance would say that December's public borrowing figures fitted the Government's purpose almost too neatly. By the old technique of spreading excessive gloom in advance, the Treasury

managed to ensure that the markets greeted almost with relief the news that total public borrowing in the first nine months of 1984-85 had exceeded £10 billion.

The Chancellor's original target for the financial year was £7.4 billion, subsequently revised upwards to £8.7 billion to allow for the effects of the coal strike. Borrowing was heavily concentrated in the summer and autumn months; by now revenue should have begun to exceed expenditure, as the change in VAT on imports bore fruit and the loot from British Telecom began rolling in. Instead, the public sector needed to borrow £573 million in December.

Even so, City analysts were finding it hard yesterday to make the numbers for the full year add up to much more than £9 billion, which is below the gloom level; and the markets took the figures in their stride. One particular point of optimism was that only about £500 million of the VAT windfall had come in within the month, leaving another £700 million to come.

The figures also lend verisimilitude to the Chancellor's story earlier in the week that he was raising interest rates not specifically to defend the pound, but because of signs of grief in the domestic monetary indicators. And if gloom on public borrowing can be fed into the markets now, a turn-round over the next couple of months might smooth the Chancellor's fiscal and monetary paths in the run-up to the Budget.

But perhaps the real explanation of the markets' docility was their preoccupation with events in Washington. In advance, the five governments concerned in these supposedly informal talks between finance ministers did their best to damp down expectations of concerted intervention in the foreign exchange markets (even though this would be quite in line with undertakings given at successive summits to intervene when markets prove "disorderly").

The Reagan Administration came under heavy fire from its hard pressed allies, seemingly with little result. But whatever the participants do or do not say on the perimeters of this G5 meeting, it is the actions of their central banks tomorrow and Monday that market operators will be studying most closely.

Welcome visibility for Abbey Life

The proposed flotation of fast growing Abbey Life would do the United Kingdom's second largest linked life company no harm. It has lived too long in the shadow of Hambro Life Assurance, the largest of its kind in the United Kingdom: a stock market quotation would make it more visible, just as Hambro's visibility is disappearing into the corporate well of BAT Industries.

Results for 1984 out yesterday show Abbey has more than held its own. In line with the industry it has seen very good growth in self-employed pensions.

If the feasibility study being carried out by S G Warburg and Ernst and Whinney comes down in favour of a float, the shares could be offered to the public within a matter of weeks. The price of £664 million paid by BATs for Hambro Life is a guide to life companies' worth. Abbey is approximately two-thirds the size of Hambro Life in most areas of business. Its shares would not carry the premium rating that Mark Weinberg's reputation gave to Hambro Life, so a market capitalization of around £400 million is a fair estimate.

£3.61 million bid for Butterfield

Technology Incorporated, the US industrial and aerospace company, has launched a £3.61 million bid for Butterfield, the mechanical engineering company in which it already holds a 11.1 per cent stake.

An agreed bid was not reached despite several weeks of talks. However, TI holds options and conversion rights in Butterfield which, if exercised, would give it 55.1 per cent of the enlarged capital.

If necessary, TI intends to exercise its options to give it a controlling stake. The offer is 25p for each ordinary share. Butterfield shares closed at 22½.



Glyn England: state industries have a wider role.

He likened the list of strategic objectives which Mr Nigel Lawson, the then Energy Secretary, had given Mr Ian MacGregor on his appointment as chairman of the National Coal Board to the "brief that would be given to a company director called in to an ailing private company".

As an answer, Mr England said, this was "woefully incomplete".

"It is not possible that this country would now be a happier, less divided and even in strictly monetary terms, more wealthy if Nigel Lawson as Secretary of State for Energy had had the wisdom to include in the original objectives some element of caring, some recognition that the objectives of a public enterprise can be different from those of a company in the private sector."

Mr England, who was effectively dismissed by Mr Lawson as CEEGB chairman three months ago, suggested that Mr MacGregor's remit should have in-

cluded a clause specifying the amount of Government or coal board money to be spent on seeking new employment opportunities for those communities hardest hit by the board's "internal drive for efficiency".

The coal board did in fact set up a job creation subsidiary NCB (Enterprise) Ltd last October, but, said Mr England, "it is a little late to recognise the value of that approach when you are many months into an industrial dispute". He did not however say how he would have reacted as chairman of the CEEGB if he had been asked to pick up the bill for meeting the coal board's social costs in the form of higher electricity prices.

Speaking in a lecture at Bradford University, Mr England combined his attack on the Government's handling of the coal industry with other criticisms of the way the present Government has dealt with the nationalized industries.

STOCK MARKETS	
FT Ind Ord	987.2 (+5.9)
FT-A All Share	808.39 (+3.88)
FT Gov Securities	79.73 (-0.44)
FT-SE 100	1,280.4 (+6.3)
Bargains: 25,580	
Dataseam USM	105.39 (+0.34)
New York	
Dow Jones	1,225.04 (-5.64)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	11,887.19 (-45.83)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1,388.42 (+28.61)
Amsterdam	191.9 (-0.4)
Sydney: AO	739.7 (+5.4)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1,151.8 (+2.3)
Brussels	
General	100.58 (-28.58)
Paris: CAC	150.1 (+0.3)
Zurich:	
SKA General	334.40 (-0.4)

GOLD	
London fixing:	
am \$305.80 m-\$305.50	
close \$304.75-\$305.25	
(2272.25-2272.75)	
New York:	
Comex \$307.15	

The oil ministers of the seven Gulf members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are to meet in Riyadh this weekend to discuss oil prices prior to the full 13-strong ministerial meeting of Opec in Geneva on January 28.

The meeting which will be chaired by the Saudi Arabian oil minister, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, will concentrate on the Opec differential price structure.

Pressure on Opec to maintain its \$29 a barrel marker price by the Gulf states is mounting to counteract pressure for a price reduction from the US, Japan and from within Opec itself.

Nigeria has broken ranks and is selling its crude at \$28 as well as being rumoured by oil traders to be exceeding its 1.3 million barrels a day Opec quota by 300,000 barrels.

The Iraqi oil minister, Qasim Taki Al-Orabi, who will attend the weekend meeting, said yesterday: "The best way for Opec to regain control over the oil market is for member countries to adhere sincerely to

the last conference decisions on prices and production and to resist consumer pressure".

Iran, another participant at the weekend meeting has cut its oil production to around 1.5 million barrels a day in the past month compared with its Opec quota of 2.5 million barrels because of its war with Iraq and is attempting to get customers to accept higher prices to cover

increased production costs.

Iran is also coming under pressure from Abu Dhabi which has indicated it may be prepared to give increased discounts in its light-crudes, further undercutting Iranian prices but bringing them closer to rates for the heavier crudes which are now selling well.

Disagreement over how the differentials should be adjusted

at the last full ministerial meeting of Opec in Geneva at the end of December led to often heated exchanges between member countries, although light crude prices were cut by 25 cents a barrel and heavy crude prices raised by 50 cents.

Opec is anxious that a new agreement can be reached, but any concerted proposals by the dominant Gulf state grouping will be regarded with suspicion by the other light-crude producers, notably Nigeria and Libya.

However, there is disagreement on the issue between the Gulf states themselves. The Iraqi oil minister said yesterday Opec must "solve the differential problem fairly so as to provide the proper environment for the equitable competitiveness of all Opec crudes".

The present differential structure is starting downward price pressure on Iraq at a time when it is doing its best to stick to the Opec price and output structure he added.

N Sea wells record

A record number of wells were drilled last year in the North Sea - 275 compared with 236 in 1983. Petroleum Information Ltd says the success ratio for exploration wells was one in four and during 1984 100 drilling rigs were deployed in the North Sea compared with 88 operational in 1983. Shell, BP and Conoco remain the area's three most active operators.

The opportunities for Britain's oil industry to help China develop its offshore and onshore oil and gas resources have been markedly improved by the agreement on the future of Hong Kong, Dr Ken Forrest, director of the Offshore Supply Office "China Unit", said in London yesterday.

"Winning a share of China's offshore market may require several years of hard work and this is, and will continue to be, a fiercely contested world market. These early stages are crucial for UK industry," he said.

Warburg discloses Fleet stake

By Phillip Robinson

Warburg Investment Management yesterday disclosed a 13 per cent shareholding in Fleet Holdings, the national newspaper and magazines group where United Newspapers bought a similar stake from Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, on Tuesday.

The WIM disclosure means that 42.24 per cent of Fleet, publisher of the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express* and *Daily Star* is in the hands of five shareholders. Speculation of a full bid for Fleet has increased sharply in the past 24 hours.

Fleet's five biggest shareholders are: United Newspapers, Warburg Investment Management, the BBC pension fund, the Prudential and Lord Matthews, the Fleet chairman.

In the stock market last night, the group's shares firmed a further 5p to a record 234p. At that level, the WIM stake is worth £29.7 million. It topped up its holding yesterday morning, buying 100,000 shares at around 220p a share. It has picked up around 1 million shares this week.

United Newspapers paid £30.6 million with its own shares for the 15.76 per cent of Fleet previously owned by Mr Maxwell, publisher of *Mirror* Group Newspapers. The deal gives United an 18.25 per cent stake.

Under takeover rules, United cannot buy further shares until next Tuesday morning. Mr David Stevens, United chairman, said last night: "We have

no present intention of increasing our stake and we will not be buying more shares on Tuesday."

He declined to comment on a private meeting last Tuesday with Lord Matthews.

Mr Alan Irvine, Fleet chief executive, said last night: "We are as relaxed as any major public company where a discretionary fund holds such a large stake on behalf of institutions."

Two months ago WIM held 15 per cent of games maker John Waddington. Its decision to place the shares with institutions friendly to the board effectively snuffed Mr Maxwell's unwanted takeover bid.



Beryl Sprinkel: may be removed from US Treasury.

Sprinkel may head advisers

From Bailey Morris Washington

Speculation is growing that Mr Beryl Sprinkel, Under-Secretary for Monetary Affairs at the US Treasury, will be named as head of the President's Council of Economic Advisers.

As the jobs shift continues in the Administration, Mr Sprinkel has emerged as the only strong candidate for the CEA post which has been vacant since the resignation of Mr Martin Feldstein, who left to return to a teaching position at Harvard University.

Mr Sprinkel, the strongest monetarist in the Administration, has often clashed with European officials and with his own Treasury colleagues over his dogmatic statements on free market principles and currency intervention.

White House officials said the President is seriously considering his appointment to the LEA which he has decided to maintain, at least temporarily, despite earlier rumours that he planned to abolish it as unnecessary.

Mr James Baker III, the current White House Chief of Staff, is expected to be confirmed as the new Treasury Secretary some time next month.

Recovery in profits at Dowty and Davy

By Jeremy Warner

Dowty Group, the aerospace, electronics and mining equipment manufacturer, yesterday reported a dramatic 69 per cent recovery in its profits for the half-year to the end of September, with shares surging 24p to 216p.

There was also news that the slow recovery in the profits of Davy Corporation, Britain's leading process engineering group, continued during the same period. At the pre-tax level, profits rose from £3 million to £4.3 million helped by the cost-cutting effects of Davy's three-year rationalization programme.

Pre-tax profits at Dowty Group leapt from £11.9 million to £20.1 million shrugging aside the adverse effects of the miners' strike and heavy redundancy costs at the company's five mining equipment divisions. The strike may have cost the group up to £2 million in lost profits. The interim dividend is being increased from 1.7p to 2.2p.

Sir Robert Hunt, Dowty's chairman, also gave warning that although the group would continue to make progress producing a satisfactory year-end result, the surge in first-half profits partly reflected recovery

from a damaging internal strike and would not be mirrored in the second half.

Favourable exchange rate movements added about £600,000 to Dowty's half-year profits.

Mr Peter Benson, Davy's chairman, said that business was still difficult, particularly in the United States petroleum and chemical sectors. But the group's rationalization programme which has knocked about £30 million off group costs over the past two-and-a-half years in engineering construction, meant that the present order intake was at a level that matches capacity.

Prospects for the group in West Germany are now "very good", Mr Benson said. The company recently won power station contracts worth £85 million at Buschhaus and Offenbach and together with the buoyant market for synthetic fibre plants, this has ensured a considerable upturn in the workload of Davy's German operation.

Mr Benson said he expected to see an improvement in profits for the year as a whole. The interim dividend has been left unchanged at 1.1p.

\$150m Eurodollar bond from BP

British Petroleum is to come to the Eurodollar market for the first time since 1966 with a bond offering to raise \$150 million.

The co-lead managers are S. G. Warburg and Morgan Guaranty. Final terms are still to be set, but the seven-year bond will carry a coupon of 11½ per cent and will be priced at par. The public offering will be next month.

BP said yesterday the proceeds will offset dollar exchange rate and interest rate exposures worldwide. The issue is the first big public move by the recently established BP Finance International.

Home loans rate rise may vary

By Richard Thomson

The Building Societies Association is likely to suggest today a mortgage rate increase of 1 to 1.5 from around 12 per cent after a meeting of all its members. But points individual societies may choose not to raise their rates immediately.

The BSA no longer has the power to set advised rates for the industry, and it is up to each society to set its own levels. Disagreement about when and by how much to increase rates could lead to sharp competition, as in September, Mr Cyril English, chief general manager of Nationwide, the third-largest society, said yesterday: "If our rates were right for the lower level of base rates last week, they cannot be right now."

But Mr Brian Firmin, of Abbey National, the second biggest said: "We want to wait until the sterling and interest rate situation steadies before moving our rates."

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, and secretary of the Conservative Finance Committee, yesterday appealed to the societies not to raise mortgage rates for at least a month. "The rise in interest rates to protect the pound is obviously intended to be short term," he said. An increase of 1.25 percentage points on mortgage rates would add about 60p for every £1,000 borrowed to ordinary monthly net repayments.

IN BRIEF

Index at record

The stock market advanced strongly on overseas buying coming predominantly from the US. The FT 30 index reached a new peak at 989.7 in the morning and closed slightly lower, but still at a new closing high of 986.8, up 5.5 on the day. The FT-SE 100 index closed 6.3 higher at 1260.4, just below its peak.

The influx of American buying was aided by another small downward shift in the value of the pound, it closed at \$1.185, down 0.1 cents.

Market report, page 21

Berisford rise

S & W Berisford, the commodities group, raised pretax profits for the year to the end of September from £55.6 million to £80.2 million. Earnings per share were 32.79p against 22.13p. But the share price fell 2p to 180p.

Tempus, page 21

MFI, the furniture group, has increased pretax profits to £19 million for the 26 weeks to November 24, 1984, up from £15.6 million. Turnover rose from £136.6 million to £156.6 million. The interim dividend is increased to 2p from 1.7p last year.

Tempus, page 21

Liberal Norway

Norway is expected to approve today the entry of seven leading foreign banks - Samuel Montagu, with three French and three American banks - in its bid to liberalize its oil-rich economy.

Inflation stable

Consumer prices rose by only 0.2 per cent in the Western industrial world in November, indicating a stable inflation rate of 5.1 per cent over a year, the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development said yesterday in Paris.

The new name for Hambro Life, the unit-linked life assurance company founded by Mr Mark Weinberg, is to be announced at a conference for the company's salesmen today. Originally associated with Hambro bank, Hambro Life separated from it last year during negotiations with Charterhouse J. Rothschild; as a condition of the separation, Hambro Life has to drop "Hambro" from its name. The company was bought by the tobacco group, BAT Industries, in December.

Dixons profits

Sales at Dixons advanced by 31 per cent to £212 million in the 28 weeks to November 10, and pretax profits jumped by 64 per cent to over £12.5 million. The interim dividend goes up by 20 per cent to 1.92p. Earnings per share rose from 11.7p to 15.1p.

Tempus, page 2

Rates hold

The central committee of the Bundesbank, the West German central bank, decided yesterday to leave unchanged both its discount and Lombard rates despite pressure from the US dollar, now near 3.30 Deutschmarks.

Curbs critic

Opening the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation's New York headquarters yesterday, the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Edward Youde, said that US textile protectionism had disrupted trade and caused great hardship in the colony.

SGB GROUP

INCREASED EARNINGS AND DIVIDEND

Preliminary Announcement Year ended 29th September 1984

	1983 £'000	1984 £'000
Group Turnover	160,419	177,455
Group Profit before Tax	7,243	11,007
and Minorities	4,061	7,263
Shareholders' Funds	*62,976	69,291
Earnings per Share	9.7p	18.4p

*After transfer of £12,200m to deferred provisions of Fire Act 1984 and £1,220m being prior years' stock loss in Australia.

Profits reached £14m in the UK. Overseas, there was an overall loss largely due to Australia and North America and to lower Middle East demand for our products.

The current year has started well and profits should continue to improve.

Dividend. At the annual general meeting to be held on 19th March, 1985, a final dividend of 4.0p per share (1983 3.3p) will be recommended, resulting in a total dividend of 6.3p for the year (1983 5.6p).

The full Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on Wednesday, 20th February, 1985.

SGB Group plc,
Milton, Surrey CR4 4TQ

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities advance again

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings, began Jan 14. Dealings end, Jan 25. Contango Day, Jan 28. Settlement Day, Feb 4.
 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	1984 85 High	1984 85 Low	Company	1984 85 High	1984 85 Low
1	DRAPERY AND STORES			1	DRAPERY AND STORES	
2	Gent SR			2	Gent SR	
3	Marks & Spencer			3	Marks & Spencer	
4	House of Fraser			4	House of Fraser	
5	Woolworth			5	Woolworth	
6	Cunliffe			6	Cunliffe	
7	Essex			7	Essex	
8	Freemans			8	Freemans	
9	Oliver JGI			9	Oliver JGI	
10	Asda			10	Asda	
11	Asda			11	Asda	
12	Asda			12	Asda	
13	Asda			13	Asda	
14	Asda			14	Asda	
15	Asda			15	Asda	
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31	Asda			31	Asda	
32	Asda			32	Asda	
33	Asda			33	Asda	
34	Asda			34	Asda	
35	Asda			35	Asda	
36	Asda			36	Asda	
37	Asda			37	Asda	
38	Asda			38	Asda	
39	Asda			39	Asda	
40	Asda			40	Asda	

Weekly Dividend
 Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

1981 85 High	1981 85 Low	Company	1981 85 High	1981 85 Low
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8
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10	10	10	10	10
11	11	11	11	11
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23	23	23	23	23
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28	28	28	28	28
29	29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30	30

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1981 85 High	1981 85 Low	Company	1981 85 High	1981 85 Low
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9
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30	30	30	30	30

INDEX-Linked

1981 85 High	1981 85 Low	Company	1981 85 High	1981 85 Low
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6
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30	30	30	30	30

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1981 85 High	1981 85 Low	Company	1981 85 High	1981 85 Low
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
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30	30	30	30	30

ELECTRICALS

1981 85 High	1981 85 Low	Company	1981 85 High	1981 85 Low
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7
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1984 85 High	1984 85 Low	Company	1984 85 High	1984 85 Low
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2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3
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30	30	30	30	30

BUILDING AND ROADS

1984 85 High	1984 85 Low	Company	1984 85 High	1984 85 Low
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
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30	30	30	30	30

FINANCE AND LAND

390	110	141	+6
147	118	141	+3
205	165	205	
205	220	205	
225	127	219	
225	128	218	
244	196	212	
178	58	85	+2
81	60	65	
220	150	218	
180	144	174	
179	143	187	+2
870	160	250	+4

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

PAPUA NEW GUINEA HARBOURS BOARD
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
REVISED LAE PORT PROJECTINVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION
TO TENDER FOR
WHARF AND TERMINAL WORKS

The Papua New Guinea Harbours Board invites applications from contractors who wish to prequalify for a selected tender list for the Revised Lae Port Project Wharf and Terminal Works.

The Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea has obtained from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) a loan to finance the foreign exchange cost of the works. The prequalification of contractors will be limited to the five contractors from member countries of the Bank. In addition, contractors should be aware that procurement procedures for the project will be governed by the Bank's Guidelines for Procurement.

The approximate value of the project is 16 million Kina. For further details of the project and prequalification documents, applications should be made in writing or by telex to:

MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS
P.O. BOX 989
PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA
TLX. No. NE 23394

Completed prequalification documents must be lodged at the above address on or before 4 pm, Friday 20th March, 1985.

COMPUTERS

FREE SOFTWARE LOCATOR SERVICE

This free service will help you locate the best software for your home, professional and business software applications. Write a brief description of your software requirements onto the Software Locator card found inside this February 25th to 28th 1985. Ask at your nearest computer shop to receive a copy of Software Locator £1.20, or telephone (0604) 25541 for further details.

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THRIVE IN '85?

SHEER LOGIC

WANG PROFESSIONAL COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS

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INDUSTRY TODAY

Cross-Channel firms step up
fight to rule the waves

By Jonathan Davis

Leading ferry operators are in the throes of widespread change

Britain's big cross-Channel ferry operators have started off the new year very much as they left off the old one - in a bout of furious activity. Although winter is traditionally the quiet season in the Channel business, this month has seen no let up in the flurry of rationalization moves and ownership changes which has become such a feature of the ferry market over the past 12 months.

In the space of the last weeks, European Ferries has announced it is buying P & O's short sea ferry operations in France, and Sea Containers, the new owner of Sealink, has unveiled its latest plans for reorganizing and making more competitive the struggling business which it bought last summer from British Rail for £60 million.

As many industry observers predicted at the time, the Government's decision to force British Rail to sell its cross-Channel operations last year - first Hoverspeed and then Sealink - has proved to be the catalyst for wide-ranging changes in the Channel ferry market, though what their final outcome will be is still far from clear.

The immediate impact of the P&O deal will be to extend yet further the market dominance already enjoyed by the two biggest operators, and put new pressure on the smaller specialist companies - such as Jeffcoat and Hoverspeed - which have always struggled to establish a permanent profitable niche in the cross-Channel trade. With its Dover/Boulogne and Portsmouth/Havre operations, P&O has the third largest share of the market after European Ferries and Sealink.

According to stockbrokers Phillips & Drew, P&O had an estimated 15 per cent of passenger traffic on the key Dover crossing section of the Channel market last year, against the two bigger companies' share of approximately 35 per cent each. Its share of the accompanied vehicle and

freight business on Dover crossings was smaller, between 5 and 10 per cent.

Overall, according to Mr Ken Siddle, European Ferries' chairman, the P&O deal will increase his share of the combined passenger, freight and vehicle traffic on all crossings to France from 38 per cent to 46 per cent. The Dover route, the shortest and the most popular is the key however, since it accounts for 60 per cent of all cross-Channel turnover and as much as 90 per cent of the profits.

From P&O's point of view, the decision to sell its French ferries and concentrate on its profitable Scottish and North Sea routes hardly came as a surprise. With a relatively aged and high cost fleet of ships, the routes had been steadily loss-makers for years, their lack of competitiveness being exposed further by the over-capacity which has dogged the whole Channel market since the 1970s.

According to Sir Jeffrey Sterling, P&O's chairman, the French routes lost £4 million in the first half of last year, and once P&O had been raised out of the auction for Sealink, last year with the threat of a Monopolies Commission reference, the decision to sell became virtually inevitable. The only alternatives were closure or an expensive fleet replacement programme.

On the face of it the price Sir Jeffrey obtained for the P & O ships - £12.5 million for assets with a book value of £10 million and a history of steady losses - appears remarkably generous. But it is not hard to see why the deal was so attractive to European Ferries.

Having twice been rebuffed in its efforts to buy Sealink on competitive grounds, first in 1981 and then again last year, it has finally succeeded in securing the extra market share in the Channel which it has so long coveted.

The company has yet to disclose its immediate plans for integrating the P & O ships into its own operations. A number of redundancies among the 1,100 P & O staff look inevitable, and some of the P & O fleet may be disposed of, but Mr Siddle insists that the losses can soon be eliminated. "We hope to run them profitably from this year



Sherwood: loss-making services likely to go

onwards" he said "though the key word at this stage is still 'hope'."

Economies of scale could eliminate some of the losses immediately, he said; for example P & O's £10 million annual advertising bill can probably be saved at once by being absorbed into European Ferries' existing advertising budget.

Whatever European Ferries decides to do with its new acquisition, the P & O deal will, undoubtedly, increase the pressure on Sea Containers' management to make a success of their attempts to rationalize the Sealink business. When he clinched the privatization deal, last July, Mr James Sherwood, Sea Containers' chairman, made it clear that he would be looking for some radical changes in the way it was run.

All Sealink's main services and assets would be reviewed, and the organization would be shifted towards a more commercially minded and profit-conscious one.

This week, in a new year letter to his employees, Mr Sherwood spelled out his plans in more detail, along with some characteristically trenchant observations on the state of the business. (For example: "there is a general feeling in the field 'the write' that the directors of Sealink UK are inadequate, the London organization is bloated and it is out of touch with the realities of the business. The truth of the matter is that the directors are competent and dedicated people but they are hopelessly overworked.")

The plans emphasise that Sealink's services are being subjected to a more rigorous financial appraisal than in the past.

Containers has already announced its plans to withdraw Sealink's Newhaven/Dieppe service, and Mr Sherwood warned this week that other loss-making services are also likely to go. These include the train connected services from Dover to Calais and Dunkirk. The small Gravesend/Tilbury ferry has also been put up for sale.

By contrast Sea Containers is pressing ahead with its plans to expand Harwich as a container port, and is spending £5 million on upgrading the ships on its Channel Island routes. It is also pursuing plans to introduce two new 'flagships' to take on European Ferries head to head on the key Dover/Calais crossing.

The future of several other services, will depend however. Mr Sherwood says, on how far the company is successful in



Siddle: P&O losses can soon be eliminated

reducing manning levels on its ships to 'German' levels, a policy that has already led to angry exchanges with the seamen's unions.

At the moment European Ferries' record of productivity and utilization of shipping capacity is considerably better than that of Sealink and the need to improve its competitiveness is more urgent. Sea Containers has not yet disclosed Sealink's financial results for last year, though it said that in the third quarter - always the most important in the Channel ferry business - it contributed £15 million (£13 million) to the group's overall profits. This was a surprisingly good performance, given the warnings from Sealink's management at the time of privatization, early in the year, that the results were likely to be disappointing.

TEMPUS

Rising interest rates
hurdle for MFI sales

MFI appears to be falling into an unfortunate habit of releasing its results shortly after the announcement of a substantial increase in interest rates. Both last July and again yesterday, the company has been obliged to admit that its sales will not be helped by the rise and this concentrates the mind wonderfully on the fact that MFI's fortunes are very sensitive to consumer demand.

Interim pretax profits of £19 million were up from £15.6 million and broadly in line with expectations. The second half, however, might prove to be a little harder for MFI. Not only will interest rates have an impact but also the Arctic weather conditions.

In the first half, the company again saw its sales growth come mainly from an increase in floor space and new stores. Of the 15 per cent increase in turnover, only 4 per cent came from genuine volume gains. The store opening programme continues apace but it is proving a terrible strain on the company's cash flow.

The money from the £29 million rights issue in October 1983 has already been spent and by the end of the year the company will again have borrowings. The small interest credit in the first half will be eroded completely and in the full year MFI will be a net interest payer.

At 24p, down 3p of the day, the shares look fully valued with little prospect of any short-term growth.

Dixons

Dixons' "alpha-minus" performance of the last 12 months continued yesterday, with the publication of its interim figures. Pretax profits came out at £12.5 million, which compares with a forecast at the time of the Currys bid of not less than £12 million. The half-year figures are probably a little better than the market expected.

Again in line with market hopes, interim dividend goes up by 20 per cent to 1.92p. The final payment might contain a pleasant surprise. But there is no reason not to expect a total payment for the year of 6p or more.

The shares were quite frisky on the figures, rising by as much as 17p at one stage, before settling down at 547p, up 5p.

Telling details behind the figures really centre on the margin gains. On sales ahead by a third in the retail sector, profits have risen by roughly two-thirds, and the leap in margins reflects the solid growth in volume sales. In the first half, the volume improvement was no less than 22 per cent.

Christmas showed much the same percentage improvement, which is really quite a staggering performance, bearing in mind that turnover for Christmas 1983 improved by some 60 per cent.

Dixons' management has nothing but kind words to say about Currys' acquisition. The sales gain in December was probably in the 20 per

cent-plus region, and profits apparently came in above forecast and expectations. Dixons talks of finding lots of good people scattered through the group.

Dixons also has plans to reduce group gearing quite radically over the next 12 months. Borrowings currently equal about 75 per cent of equity, but by end-1985, they may have fallen to around 20 per cent. Crudely, this means that Dixons plans to raise about £100 million by selling assets and rationalizing the credit trading.

A note of self-confidence sounds throughout the figures. Nevertheless, the smart money in the City is already talking of moving on. The great Dixons' management rejuvenation story must be fairly fully reflected in the current rating, about 40 per cent above the market average.

Taking some Dixons profits and switching into Ward White is what the grapevine is whispering.

S & W Berisford

S & W Berisford's reputation as a go-go stock has taken a few knocks recently, yesterday it suffered a blow. The apparently impressive £25 million increase in pretax profits to £81.2 million does not diminish serious reservations about the sources of Berisford's long term growth.

British Sugar, which still generates a lot of cash saw its contribution fall from £7.4 million to £7.0 million. The combination of rigid Common Market pricing and the impact of sterling's weakness on oil prices seems set to bring BSC's profits down further, to perhaps £60 million this year and less the year after.

Commodity merchanting and international trading, still the heart of the group, superficially did better by raising its pretax profits from £24.5 million to £45.3 million. Cocoa made the important contribution. But political factors have intensified the risks in commodity trading in the point at which even Mr Ephraim Margulies is nervous.

Scope for expansion is limited by gearing of 150 per cent, including trade financing, as shown in the £10 million rise in interest charges to £54.9 million. Profits were flattened by the absence of a write-off against Eranger, whose £31.2 million loss in 1982/3 set back the group's diversification plans by at least a year.

In the short term, windfalls are possible from the sale of the Billingsgate interest and the £60 million that could be raised from the Rank Hovis McDougall stake. But it is to financial services, whose pretax profits almost doubled to £7.7 million, that Berisford will turn for long term growth.

With a yield of 8.3 per cent on the dividend bumped up to 10.5p the stock holds income attractions. Berisford's share price, however, has not kept up with the bull market of the last couple of years. Firm evidence of sustained growth in a major area of the company's business is needed if the rating is to be restored.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Foreign buyers keep the index
marching towards 1,000 points

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Overseas investors kept the bull market charging towards the 1,000 points mark yesterday. Although best levels were not always held, shares of the FT 30 index gained 15.9 points to 987.2 points.

The continuing weakness of the pound on the foreign exchange market is pulling foreign buyers, particularly Americans, into British equities. Many market men are convinced that the overseas buying will continue to pour cash into blue chips and there is a widespread belief that the epic achievement of topping 1,000 points will be achieved in the next few days.

Although the FT 30 index was at a new peak yesterday the more broadly based FT-SE share index, at 1,260.4 points up 6.3 points, was just below its best ever level, indicating the overseas preference for leading shares.

British Telecom was again a feature as transatlantic buying to match ADR requirements kept the price on the boil. It closed at 129.5p, up 4p on the day.

Shares of Resource Technology have had a rough ride. From a high last year of 135p they fell to 33p recently and yesterday they rose to 44p. Interim figures, due next month, will be disappointing, perhaps around the £100,000 mark, against £753,000 in the same period last year.

Distillers Co. responded to bullish talk about short term prospects, jumping 13p to 307p at one time.

Government stocks, once again, were dull falling by up to 2½, despite a better than many had expected PSBR.

London traded options had a busy day, with 19,423 contracts traded. British Telecom took first prize with a total of 8,863 contracts, 7,477 of those were calls, as investors continue to look for more rises in the BT share price.

Imperial Group was the next most heavily traded option, with 1,242 calls placed and 341 put options bought. Jaguar also came in for attention; there were 1,107 calls and 63 puts traded. On Wednesday night the company got boost from a television programme which showed US demand for the cars outstripping production capability.

For the FT-SE 100 share index contract, there were still

plenty of pessimists around. They bought 945 put contracts, expecting new peaks for the index to fall away, and just 55 call options.

For the third day running H. P. Bulmer, the cider maker, had last month recorded a sharp interim profits decline, was in demand, gaining 15p to 169p.

Suggested bidder is Argyl

Bodelyne International advanced 9p higher to a new peak of 97p yesterday, following a lunch on Wednesday at stockbroker Grosvenor House for institutional investors. The company continues to impress the City, having moved away from the textiles business into general industrial supplies, though the group still makes high quality workwear and protective clothing. City forecasts suggest profits of up to £1.75 million for the year just ended, against just over £1,000,000 last time.

Group, the sprawling food and drink complex created by Mr James Gulliver.

Argyll's wines and spirits are extensive but the group lacks a leading, high profile drinks brand in this country.

Bulmer's, with Strongbow and Woodpecker cider and a number of wine and spirit agencies, would fit in with the Argyll operation.

But the family controlled cider makers have remained fiercely independent. There have been rumours in the past of takeovers with Arthur Guinness and Sons and Becham Group mentioned as possible bidders.

But Argyll, up 10p to 280p, could, according to some market suggestions, be on the verge of attempting a big retail expansion. Another rumour circulating was that Mr Gulliver was about to buy the Fine Fare supermarket chain from Associated British Foods. Mr Gulliver came to fame in the 1960s when, in dramatic style, he turned round the then ailing Fine Fare chain for ABF. He later left to create his own food group.

Dunlop Holdings came back from suspension and the shares rapidly broke through the 30p mark. The price then bounced around during the day until steadying at 31½p, well up on the 25p suspension price.

Few market men expected such a strong return for the shares after the £142 million refinancing package announced this week, and City chat suggested investors could have bought as many Dunlop shares as they wanted at about the 19p level half an hour before dealings began. But, as soon as

the market opened officially, the price shot forward.

BOC Group kept its run going, rising to 310p at one stage. The shares are benefiting from this week's optimistic annual meeting statement and from its seminar for institutional investors organized by Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, on Tuesday night. By the close

the shares stood at 296p, up 9p on the day.

Burmah shares waned and waxed during the day, dipping to 227p early on, touching 237p later and closing at 233p, up 4p on the day. Takeover talk stays with the shares, with a consortium bid the latest favourite since Heron International has declined to appear on the scene to confirm earlier market expectations.

Other oil shares traded close to overnight levels as prices on world spot markets gained a few cents during the day. British Petroleum was unchanged at 483p, British Oil dipped 3p to 196p, Enterprise Oil slipped 3p to 182p, Lassmo fell 7p to 351p, Tricrest rose 1p to 191p and Ultramar fell 2p to 201p.

Premier Consolidated gained 4p to 48p, despite the announcement this week of a £16 million rights issue. City men were puzzling about the price movement, but there was talk of substantial buying in the shares in the last 24 hours.

Carless Capel has 15 per cent of Premier, following its takeover attempt last year, and US arbitrage specialist Ivan Bosky has 8 per cent of Premier. Neither is expected to take up the rights offer, and market men remain cynical about talk of further bid action for the exploration company.

But takeover hopes stay high at Britannia Arrow, the investment management company where the share price has pushed on to new price peaks in recent months. Yesterday, the shares gained another 4p to 109p while directors of the company were unavailable for comment.

Charterhouse J Rothschild is tipped to buy Britannia. CIR certainly has the cash - around

£450 million - after its recent sell-offs of a stake in Hambro Life and of its merchant banking business to the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Lowe Howard-Spink Campbell-Ewens, the advertising agency, gained another 13p to 296p, a new peak for the share price. Investors are still picking up the shares after news earlier in the week that Mr Tim Bell has joined the company from Saatchi & Saatchi.

Mr Bell masterminded the Tory election campaigns of recent years, and takes that ad account with him to Lowe Howard.

High-quality pottery and china makers Wedgwood moved sharply to another new high, the shares rising 13p to 222p at one stage before settling back at 214p, up 5p on the day.

Bid talk hangs around the shares but investors are happy to buy the stock for more solid reasons. Wedgwood sells about 40 per cent of production in America, and the strong US dollar does the company no harm.

There is talk of a 29.9 per cent shareholding being disclosed soon in Owners Abroad, the air travel and holiday company. The shares were unchanged at 24½p. Mr Howard Allen, company secretary, said yesterday: "We certainly don't know anything about it."

Sir Arthur Bryan, chairman of Wedgwood, says: "We had good first half results and I have been optimistic about trading in the second half. Analysts are still recommending the shares."

As for the takeover rumours, he says there is nothing unusual on the share register.

Dary Corporation fell 8p to 86p but Dowty Group rose 25p to 216p on its 68 per cent profits advance.

SGR, the scaffolding group, had a see-saw day. The shares started at 140p, fell to 134p ahead of the figures, and when the 57 per cent profits improvement was known, jumped 28p to 162p.

Consultants (Computer and Financial) gained 2p to 52p. James Capel & Co., the stockbroker, believes the company will only break even last year but has revised upwards its current year forecast to £800,000.

The brokers say that predicting Consultants' profits is particularly hazardous.



Greenwich Cable Communications PLC.

The Directors announce the results of trading for the year ended 31st August 1984. The results are comparable with the previous year and do not reflect the new satellite entertainment programmes which were introduced after the end of the financial year.

See forward to the new opportunities these new services represent.

Greenwich Cable Communications plc and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31st August 1984

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31st August 1984		
	1984	1983
Turnover	£243,021	£254,796
Net Operating Loss before Depreciation	303,689	285,335
Depreciation	73,172	74,854
Amortisation of Goodwill	7,050	7,068
Restated income	(2,341)	(16,572)
Loss before and after Tax	£381,500	£350,705
Loss per share	10p	15p

The Directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend

CRICKET: AZHARUDDIN MAKES A MATCH OF A THREATENED TEST ROUT



Deliver, and stand: while Foster was bowling a name for himself, Amarnath was batting to keep his famous one alive

Foster soars to new heights as two new stars rise in the East

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Madras

The fourth Test match continued yesterday to provide some memorable entertainment in glorious weather and amid an air of high excitement. Beginning their second innings needing 580 to make England but again India were soon 22 for three. They ended the day at 246 for four, the 21-year-old Azharuddin still being there with 103 to his credit. The game finishes today.

You could never see much better batting than Amarnath's and Azharuddin's in a third-wicket partnership of 190 which made a match of what was threatening to become a rout. They came together after Gavaskar, Vengsarkar and Srikanth had been swept aside by Foster in another capital piece of bowling by him. With a little freshness still in the pitch, Foster bowled an opening spell which raised real hopes for the future. His figures when Azharuddin appeared an hour before lunch were 3-54-7-3.

For the next three and three-quarters hours Azharuddin and Amarnath showed judgement, character and technique of the highest order. Azharuddin played like an angel. He has a style which charms away routine, and the balance and footwork of the greatest natural players. His late sweep is nearer to Denis Compton's was of playing it than he can possibly realise, and yesterday his cutting was a sheer delight. But there seems really to be no stroke that he has not got.

Previously only Bill Ponsford (against England), Doug Walters (also against England) and Alvin Kalichman (against New Zealand) had scored centuries in each of their first two Test matches, as Azharuddin has now.

Amarnath's 78 on the first day had shown him to be in prime form, and there was a crispness and confidence about his stroke play now that had his famous old father puffing contentedly on his pipe. Mohinder has never, as Lala did, made a hundred against England and it was a shame that he should miss one again. The hook got him out, as it nearly had once before.

Wicket turns to advantage of Pakistan

Wellington (ADP) - Sudden changes to the character of the Basin Reserve wicket in Wellington have improved Pakistan's chances on the eve of the first Test against New Zealand.

In the space of only a few weeks the Basin Reserve has been transformed from a graveyard to a paradise for spin bowlers. The dramatic change, due in part to a new soil preparation which has prevented grass growth, has been welcomed by a Pakistani team strong on spin and weak on speed, and they believe slow bowlers will have an impact early in the game.

Yasir Saeed, the team manager, made an prediction yesterday after inspecting the wicket: "The Test will not end in a draw." New Zealand's captain, Geoff Haworth, was not so enthusiastic. "It looks like a Pakistan prepared by Pakistan for Pakistan," he said.

The New Zealand selectors have included two spinners, Boock and Brucewell, in their 12 - the first time they have selected any spin bowler for a Test played in Wellington in seven years. Pakistan have the leg-spin bowler Abdul Qadir back after a foot injury.

New Zealand have been strengthened by the return of their regular captain, Geoff Haworth and their all-rounder Hadlee, who were unavailable for the tour of Pakistan last year, when New Zealand lost the series 2-0.

They have named only one recognized opening batsman, John Wright, who has scored consecutive centuries against Pakistan, in the third Test in Karachi last year, and for Canterbury during Pakistan's first game in New Zealand.

PAKISTAN: Javed Miandad (capt), Anis Dilip, Mushtaq Nazir, Abdul Qadir, Azeem Hameed, Mohsin Khan, Shoaib Mohammad, Usman Omar, Saleem Malik, Wasim Raja, Iqbal Qasim, Tahir Nageen.

NEW ZEALAND: S. Brock, J. Brownlee, C. Carr, E. Chatfield, J. Conery, J. Crowe, R. Crowe, R. Hadlee, G. Haworth (capt), J. Reid, J. Wright.

To take 10 wickets in a Test match in India, as a fast bowler, is a rare feat. Foster is only the third Englishman to have done it. Lever and Botham being the others. The difference between yesterday's conditions and last Sunday's can be seen from Cowdrey's figures. He bowled 19 overs then, when the ball was swinging, and only five now. As the day wore on the ball began to turn a little more, but mostly only out of the bowler's footmarks. Edmonds plucked away at these from over the wicket. Pocock was some way from his best.

England had batted on for four overs in the morning, scoring another 41 runs for the loss of Gower and Edmonds. Gower was bowled while

seven, the latter a record which is likely never to be broken. That happened, too, even with the great O'Reilly in the Australian side. O'Reilly's combined figures in the two matches were 141-27-342-6. So Siva may take heart.

I am not sure, though, that Gavaskar can. There was something truly said about his departing yesterday. A great player, for many years an idol among his countrymen he was now chided all the way back to the pavilion, his career not far from an end. It was line ball that got him out, the last of Foster's first over. Lifting from not much short of a length, it would have tested him even in his prime.

Gavaskar edged it straight at

in short leg off Srikanth's glove. In all the circumstances this was a most ill-chosen stroke.

Amarnath would also have been out by lunch (67 for three) had the same long-leg boundary been a yard further back. Foster caught him there, from a hook off Coward, but failed to stay inside the rope.

The match has been played, in fact, with, and in, a conspicuously good spirit, watched by a wonderfully spontaneous crowd. More the pity, therefore, that Pocock should have put on a wholly uncharacteristic show of petulance when he thought he had Amarnath, then 41, leg-before going for a sweep. Although it was in the middle of an over, Pocock stormed off into the covers to be alone with his grievance. Gower needing eventually to have a word in his ear.

Between lunch and tea Amarnath and Azharuddin scored 101 from 32 overs. There was the odd scare between the wickets, which produced screams from the stands, and when he was 64 Amarnath drove Edmonds dangerously close to Coward's extra cover.

The pair had settled down again for the final session when, with the last of the day's drinks about to be brought out, Amarnath hooked Foster to long leg. Coward, the safest of outfielders, held the ball low in front of him.

By now Azharuddin was being given rather less to force though the off side off the back foot and efforts were being made to block his sweep with a short fine leg. He reached his hundred 25 minutes before the close with a blistering cover drive off Pocock. If England would have taken another wicket last night they could have felt more or less sure of winning, and they clearly thought they had Azharuddin's off the last ball of the day, caught off bat and pad at silly point. The umpire was adamant that they had not and as the day ended few could have been in any doubt that a new star had risen. Azharuddin has batted for four hours and 10 minutes, hit 18 fours and given no chance.

MADRAS SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First Innings		201
R. Foster	103	103
D. Lever	10	10
D. Botham	10	10
D. Gower	10	10
D. Edmonds	10	10
D. Pocock	10	10
D. Coward	10	10
D. Siva	10	10
D. Srikanth	10	10
D. Amarnath	10	10
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British Rail set to sue unions for strike damages

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

British Rail is expected to press ahead with plans to sue the two railway unions for damages which may amount to £100,000 after yesterday's 24 hour strike.

The dispute which caused the disruption to services in the East Midlands and South Yorkshire also led to the cancellation of about half the services in and out of London's Waterloo station, where 200 guards and drivers staged an unofficial walk out.

Suggestions emanating from British Rail that the decision to call the strike was influenced by rail union leaders' meeting Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, were strongly denied last night.

Mr Jimmy Knapp, the general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said: "It is a scurrilous lie to suggest that some sort of secret meeting influenced our discussions with the railway's board."

BR sources suggested that after negotiations with the two rail unions on Monday night they believed there was a good chance that the dispute, over alleged harassment of workers in the Midlands who are refusing to handle coal, would be called off. But after the meeting with Mr Scargill and Mr Michael McGahey, the NUM's vice-president, it was

suggested that the rail unions' attitude hardened.

Mr Ray Buckton, the general secretary of the train drivers' union ASLEF, who was at the meeting with the miners' leaders, said it had been arranged several days earlier to discuss the loss of coal traffic from the railways to road haulage.

Rail services today are expected to be back to normal but BR could face further disruption if it goes ahead with its plan to sue the unions.

Lawyers are likely to take a final decision next week and the action, if brought, would be under last year's Trade Union Act which allows employers to seek damages up to £250,000 if strikes are called without a ballot.

Unions and management agreed yesterday that there had been a strong response to the call to 5,000 workers at depots based in Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire to take action.

Inter-city services from Kings Cross ended at Peterborough and then continued from York services out of London's St Pancras ended at either Leicester or Derby and did not go to Sheffield. About one-third of London's Waterloo stations

daily total of 170,000 commuters had their trains cancelled yesterday.

1,000 jobs to be axed at ICL and Bakelite

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

One thousand jobs are to be lost in two redundancy measures announced yesterday - 650 at International Computers (ICL) and 350 at the Bakelite UK subsidiary of BP Chemicals.

ICL said that 470 employees would go at its Letchworth site and the remainder at Kingsgrove and Ashton-under-Lyne.

BP Chemicals said that it planned to cease manufacture at Bakelite, based at Tysley, Birmingham, at the end of February, because losses were

predicted to remain at an unacceptable level.

While BP will continue to produce bakelite-type material at Barry, South Wales, the branded Bakelite will be confined to manufacturers on the Continent.

Representatives of 203 workers at Glenamork steel works in Ayrshire, Scotland, which the British Steel Corporation wants to close, said

yesterday that Mr Allan Stewart, Under Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, had promised to press BSC to reconsider.



The new US type telephone kiosks (above) will be easier to use for the old and handicapped but harder to vandalize.

Brighter US look for call boxes

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Most of Britain's public telephones are to be given a facelift over the next 10 years and the familiar but expensive and unreliable kiosks will virtually disappear.

British Telecom, which will spend £35 modernizing the kiosks designs, said: "The familiar red kiosks will not disappear immediately. They may be kept where there are special local reasons, such as in conservation areas."

"But they no longer meet the requirements of our customers. Few people like to use them. They are expensive and difficult to clean and maintain and cannot be used by handicapped people."

The new designs, adapted from ones successfully used in the United States, come in several forms. The type used will depend on the location. All kiosks are supposed to be hard wearing with painted finishes made from anodized aluminium, steel and heavy duty glass.

The new booths will be brighter lit, sound-proofed and have vandal-resistant panelling. The first 330 will be imported from the United States but the rest will be made in Britain.

The strategy is to produce a more reliable and a cheaper public kiosk network.

Vandalism in Glasgow cost the corporation £250,000 last year and £100,000 in Tunbridge Wells. But British Telecom estimates that lost revenue is three times the cost of vandalism.

About half of London's 10,000 public telephones are vandalized every month.

Tube system may take homeless

Continued from page 1

his van was involved in a head-on collision with a car on black ice.

An RAC spokesman said last night that conditions in the West were getting worse and speed limits of between 40 and 50 mph were imposed on stretches of the M4, because of heavy snow and ice.

Temperatures plunged so low the diesel froze in the pumps at Godalming in Surrey and lorry drivers, lighting fires under fuel tanks to thaw frozen diesel, were warned that they risked blowing themselves up.

France has been worst hit in Europe by the conditions with 143 deaths attributed to weather-related accidents or illnesses.

The top Canon League first division match tomorrow, between Tottenham Hotspur and Everton, has already been postponed, with another important fixture Nottingham Forest v Sheffield Wednesday another of the casualties.

Colliery officials threaten to quit

Continued from page 1

next week, the situation for the future of the National Union of Mineworkers would become critical.

COSA is the only "national" area recruiting white-collar workers and weekly-paid underground staff in every coalfield. Together with Nottinghamshire and the other districts, it could muster a rival union to the NUM operating in every area and with a relatively secure base membership of more than 50,000.

Mr Ken Toon, secretary of the South Derbyshire miners, said after a four-hour delegate conference of the area's four collieries: "The men are of the opinion that the national campaign will be trying to sell us a carrot. We are aware of the possibility of being thrown out of the NUM."

Another 262 "new faces" reported for work in the striking coalfields yesterday, the coal board reported, bringing the total this week to 2,587, more

than the whole of last week's tally of 2,365 men abandoning the strike.

There are 74,000 NUM members not on strike, according to the board, or just over 39 per cent of the total number of 187,800 unionized coalminers.

Mr Scargill yesterday denied the board's figures, insisting that 140,000 union members were still not at work, rather than 114,000 as the board states.

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Father passes Aids to baby

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

The first case of Aids in the child of a haemophilic has been reported in the United States, and has prompted the issue of guidelines to sufferers of Haemophilia in Britain.

The symptoms of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome were diagnosed in a five-month-old boy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The doctors involved believe the disease was contracted by the boy's father, a haemophilic, through contaminated blood concentrate, sexually transmitted to the man's wife, and passed from her to the baby.

The case is reported in the *Lancet*.

After Aids was diagnosed in the baby, the disease was also found to have developed in his father, who had shown symptoms of the illness, as had his wife, before the child's birth. All three are receiving treatment.

Knowledge of the American case prompted the Haemophilia Society in Britain to issue advice to doctors of its centre to test haemophilics who are in receipt of Factor VIII blood concentrate gathered from a large group of donors.

The advice is that they should wear the contraceptive sheath during sexual intercourse, that blood donations by the sexual partners of haemophilics should be discontinued and that neither partner should continue to carry organ donor cards.

The fears of men on board the guided missile destroyer HMS Liverpool, that they may have contracted Aids on a long weekend in Haiti were allayed yesterday (David Nicholson-Lord writes).

Normal marital relations with their wives can be resumed when the men return in a fortnight, the Ministry said.

The Ministry said "a very small proportion" of the crew of 280 had expressed concern about possible infection. But none of the men had shown any symptoms and there was now no need for medical checks which had been ordered for their return.

GLC adverts ban upheld

The injunction banning the Greater London Council from spending £10 million on its anti-abortion publicity campaign was upheld by Mr Justice Nolan in the High Court last night.

But the order submitted by Westminster City Council was far too wide, the judge said. The court will decide today on its precise terms.

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
Princess Anne attends the rededication ceremony of HMS Amazon at Devonport Naval Base, Devon, 10.40; and later visits HMS Drake, Devonport Naval Base, 2.10.

New exhibitions
Henri Matisse: sculpture and drawings: City Art Gallery, The Drawings: Leeds; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Weds 10 to 9, Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 5; (ends March 24).

Written in the Felde: work by Ian McDonald and Patrick Sutherland: Impressions Gallery of Photography, 17, Colliette, York, Tues to Sat 10 to 6; (ends Feb 23).

Music
A Beethoven night with the Ulster Orchestra, Ulster Hall, Belfast, 7.45.

Handel's Ottone, Queen Elizabeth II Theatre, Winchester College, 7.30; today and tomorrow.

Concert by the Scottish National Orchestra; Ulster Hall, Edinburgh, 7.30.

Concert by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra; Mitchell Hall, Aberdeen, 7.30.

Concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; Civic Hall, Bedford, 7.30.

Concert by the Boumoumoum Sinfonietta; Dauntsey's School, West Lavington, 7.45.

Concert by Peter and Anne Evans (piano and flute); Moffat Academy, Moffat, 7.30.

Concert by the Alberni String Quartet; Stevenson Hall, Glasgow, 7.30.

Concert by the Academy of Ancient Music; City Hall, Bakers Pool, Sheffield, 7.30.

Concert by the Delme String Quartet; Stevenson Hall, Glasgow, 7.30.

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Quartet, Ian Partridge (tenor) and Jennifer Partridge (piano); North Bromsgrove High School, 7.30.

Talks, lectures
The Twentieth and Alibi, by Mr G. G. Cawkwell; Attenborough Lecture Theatre, Leicester University, 5.15.

William Morris: artist and socialist, by Dr Paul Thompson; Polytechnic, Pond St, Sheffield, 7.30.

Fairy Tales: their wisdom and their relevance for children today, by Jesse Darrell; Tintagel House, Meadow Bank Rd, Sheffield, 7.45.

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Food prices

Bad weather conditions here and on the Continent are affecting supplies of many vegetables and shoppers are advised to check carefully for frost damage. Home grown vegetables are in short supply and consequently a little dearer: carrots are 18-24p a lb, parsnips 25-30p a lb, Brussels sprouts 25-30p a lb, cauliflower 70-90p and swedes 16-20p a lb. The best buys are hard red and white cabbages, from store, ranging from 14-26p a lb. Homegrown red and white potatoes range from 8-12p a lb and mushrooms 40-75p a half lb. Apples and pears are plentiful and good, and coxes are probably the best buy at 25-40p a lb. Oranges and grapefruit from 8-30p each depending on size and quality.

Supplies of marmalade oranges are building up and selling at 25-30p a lb. avocados from 25-30p each and small and medium pineapples from 55 to 61-40 are cheap. Best salad buys are celery at 40-50p a head and Chinese leeks at 40-50p a lb.

Average fish prices for London and the South-east are large cod fillets £1.52 a lb, haddock fillets £1.55, plaice fillets £1.74, boned herring 85p, mackerel 60p, and smoked haddock £1.56.

In spite of the cold weather and a high demand for stewing and roasting cuts of beef, average retail prices have not risen. Lamb prices are down generally with whole leg down 4p a lb. Some good offers this week are: Devonshire braising steak £1.49, hock 99p, Tesco whole leg of pork 88p, Sainsbury's standing rib of beef £1.79 a lb and steak and kidney down 50p to 99p.

Anniversaries
Eusebius Chabrier, composer, was born, Amberg, France, 1841.

Deaths: Jan van Riebeck, founder of Cape Town (1652), Djakarta, Indonesia, 1677; John Tyler, 10th president of the USA, 1841-43.

Richmond, Virginia, 1862; Redway kipling, London, 1930; Hugh Gaitheiser, leader of the Labour Party, 1925-63, London, 1963.

William size of Prussia was proclaimed German emperor at Versailles, 1871. Captain Scott arrived at the South Pole, January 1912, to find a note from Amundsen who had arrived there on Dec 14, 1911.

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